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Consider renaming lions, HC tells Bengal
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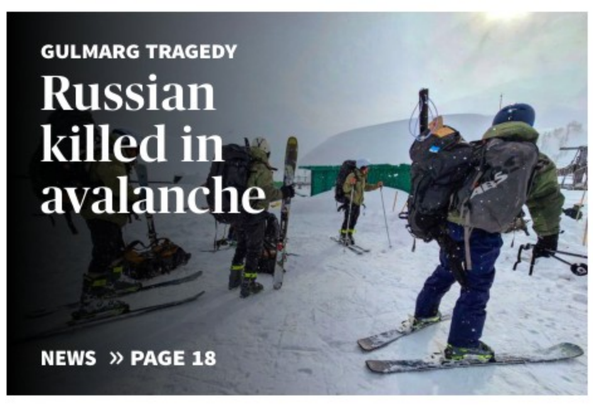

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Rohit's men will look to seal the series
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NEARBY

K.G. Layout: HC upholds land acquisition

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday upheld the acquisition of land for the formation of Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Layout but imposed conditions on the BDA on proceeding with the acquisition of 600 acres.
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LS polls: JD(S) likely to get three seats

BENGALURU
The BJP is likely to meet the demand of the Janata Dal (Secular) for three parliamentary seats in the Old Mysore region while discussion is on for another seat.
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India a bridging power in many ways: Jaishankar

Multilateralism will exist side by side with national interests with the calculations, competitions... we should strive for common ground though it will never be perfect, says External Affairs Minister

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India is a bridging power in many ways, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday, while stating that multilateralism would exist side by side with national interests. In this regard, he stated that just after Independence, India put "trust" in multilateralism and took the "Kashmir aggression" issue to the United Nations (UN) and others made it into an "accession issue" for geopolitical reasons.

"Very literally in our first year of Independence, we put our trust on multilateralism and took the Kashmir aggression issue to the UN and others made it into an accession issue. And they did it for geopolitical reasons. The fact is that if you say they are playing multilateralism, they always did. We have grown up," Mr. Jaishankar said, during the Raisina Dialogue jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation.

He was speaking in a panel themed 'A Tapestry of Truths: Can the Two Hemispheres Agree?' along with his counterparts from the Netherlands, Hanke Bruins Slot, and January Yusuf Makamba from Tanzania; Jorge Quiroga, former President, Bolivia; and Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the President of UAE.

Further, Mr. Jaishankar said multilateralism "will exist side by side with national interests, with the calculations and competitions... But I also agree... that there is a place for sentiment, for solidarity... At different levels we shouldn't make it exclusive." "India can also help the world by offering solutions from our own examples and digital would be the most appropriate."

Calling India a bridging power, he said whether it is COVID or today's regional conflicts, people would see India as relatively objective and unbiased. "At least to the extent we can get common ground we should strive for common ground even though it will never be perfect," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 18

Balancing interests: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar speaking at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Ex-Governor Satya Pal Malik cries foul as CBI searches his premises

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted searches at over 30 locations across eight States/Union Territories, including the premises of former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik, in connection with the alleged irregularities in the award of Kiru hydroelectric project works.

Responding to the development through his X (formerly Twitter) handle, Mr. Malik said: "I have been ill for the last 3-4 days and am admitted to hospital. Despite this, my house is being raided by the dictator through government agencies... instead of investigating the people I had complained about who were involved in corruption."

While he was the Meghalaya Governor, Mr. Malik had alleged corruption in two J&K schemes, including the hydel project, stating that it ran to ₹300 crore. He has criticised the Modi government on several occasions, on issues ranging from the 2019 Pulwama attack to alleged corruption in Goa, where he was the Governor after being shifted out of J&K.

In BJP since 2004, he has also criticised the Centre on the farmers' protests of 2020-21 and raised questions over the abrogation of Article 370.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 18

Satya Pal Malik

Taxes: House resolution condemns Centre's stand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government, on a confrontational path with the Centre, went a step ahead on Thursday with the Assembly adopting two resolutions.

While the first one condemned the "stepmotherly" attitude of the Centre in the devolution of its share of taxes as well as disaster relief, the second one justified the nationwide protest of farmers and urged the Centre to fulfil their demands for legal guarantee for MSPs for their crops.

Both the resolutions were adopted amid dharna by the BJP, which accused the Congress government of "spewing venom" at the Centre and trying to project the Union government in poor light to cover up its own lapses.

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Social Welfare Department
My Constitution, My Life...
'The Constitution & National Unity Convention'
For
LIBERTY OF THOUGHT, EXPRESSION
BELIEF, FAITH AND WORSHIP
On the occasion of 75th year of our Constitution,
Government of Karnataka, led by
Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah, renews
its oath to deliver the promises of
our Constitution to the people of Karnataka.
Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
speaking on the democratic principles
enshrined in our Constitution
Feb 25, 2024 | 1.30 pm
Krishna Vihar, Palace Grounds, Bengaluru
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https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/
Published by : The Commissioner, Social Welfare Department

Spin twins Ecclestone and Deepti powering UP Warriorz

With Season 2 of the WPL being played at two new venues (Bengaluru and New Delhi), the tweakers eagerly await their chance to impress on and off the field

Lavanya Lakshminarayanan

You can't take a tough cookie like Sophie Ecclestone away from cricket.

The English spinner dislocated her right shoulder last year while warming up ahead of a fixture of The Hundred, robbing Manchester Originals of her services for the season. She underwent surgery for the issue in September, but was back a couple of months later with the English set up that toured India for three T20Is and a one-off Test.

England won the T20I leg 2-1, but lost the Test by 347 runs. The two losses it endured had one common element, an underperforming Ecclestone.

Her fluctuating rhythm did not stop her from bowling 41.3 overs in total in the four-day Test. She conceded 167 runs, taking five wickets in total. In the two fixtures England won in the T20I series, she returned economy rates of 3.75 (with three wickets) and 3.90 (two scalps). In the loss in the final T20I, Ecclestone conceded 40 runs despite taking two wickets.

This is not to pin blame on the gifted 24-year-old, especially when she was – with the full confidence of the team management – finding her flow coming off the injury. However, it does speak volumes of just how valuable she is to the team's cause, enough for the outfit to depend a tad too much on her sometimes. Sophie only contributed to the workload, constantly approaching skipper Heather Knight to trust her with the ball for another over.

"I hadn't played much cricket up until that point. As a player I am really lucky that I didn't need much training before I got into things. My head just needed to be in the right space," Ecclestone told *The Hindu* ahead of her second stint for the UP Warriorz in the Women's Premier League.

"For the India series, it was interesting to put myself back in match situations again and in front of a big crowd as well. For the team to have faith in me was pretty nice," she added with a cheeky smile.

For a competitor as ruthless as her, watching from the sidelines was a tough proposition. She's had to do that a fair bit over the past six months.

"I had a long rehab, over three months. I've had some time off to give the shoulder a rest as well and was eventually just raring to go," she explained.

The time off was necessary as she needed to rebuild strength in both shoulders. The Chester-born all-rounder was spending six days every week in the gym working on her power and arm movements.

After the India tour, Ecclestone had a long Christmas break which she spent with her family, giving her body some more rest ahead of a relentless international and franchise-league season.

"It was great, but somewhere in the middle, I got really bored and was itching to bowl again," she shrugged.

And bowl again she will, for a side filled with eccentric characters and one of her fiercest competitors to partner her with the ball – India's Deepti Sharma.

"Deepti is an incredible player and it's fascinating to watch her do her thing. I can't wait to team up with her, be the spin twins of the side and put up some memorable performances in India," Ecclestone said.

The Agra-born right-arm off-break bowler shares her teammate's enthusiasm and reveals how close this unit has become over the past year.

"We were waiting for the season to begin. We enjoy each other's company a lot," she said.

"Sophie and I have always worked on maximising our strengths. We don't look at what the batter we face is bringing to the table as much as we do on our stock balls. We do simple things and focus on our communication during the game, staying alert to the match situation and working in tandem to build on any individual impact we might have," she explained.

The Alyssa Healy-led side managed to steady a rocky campaign to make it to the knockouts last time. Ecclestone hopes things aren't as topsy-turvy, more so because she feels the team had a point to prove.

"It will be nice to get the Warriorz into the final. Sometimes we don't get the credit we deserve because we're one of the smaller teams. We are the underdogs and it'll be nice to make it to the final and prove everyone wrong," she said.

Deepti is excited to be part of the league's widening horizons as it moves to two new cities.

"I heard the cheers coming my way in Mumbai. One chant was "*Humari beti kaisi ho? Deepti Sharma jaisi ho*" (How should our daughter be? Like Deepti Sharma). That felt absolutely incredible. We are playing in new venues and it's a chance to reach out to a whole new set of people. We can't wait," she added.

SPORTZPICS/WPL & INSTAGRAM/SOPHECC19

THE GIST

- Ecclestone tops the ODI and T20I rankings while Deepti is ranked fourth in the 50-over format and second in the shortest format
- Ecclestone claimed the highest number of wickets (16) in the inaugural season. Deepti took nine

Judging players on the basis of age needs to go from the game, says Sneh

Lavanya Lakshminarayanan

Team in crisis? Call Sneh Rana. Remember India's one-off Test in 2021 against England in Bristol? The host had enforced the follow-on and put India under the pump, looking set to chase a miniscule target to close out a famous win at home. But in its path stood Sneh. Her defiant unbeaten 80 and dogged 104-run stand with Taniya Bhatia slowly snuffed out any ounce of joy the English side had coming into the final day of play. The duo batted India to a fighting draw, a result that vindicated her addition to the national set-up after seven long years of watching from the sidelines, first due to poor form and then an injury to her knee.

Ever since, Sneh has been the one to turn to for firefighting in crunch situations. Last year's Women's Premier League was no exception. Playing for Gujarat Giants, the team hit a massive roadblock when skipper Beth Mooney had to limp off the field after an injury to her calf in after facing just three deliveries in the chase against eventual champion Mumbai Indians. Sneh was the perfect bridge between a side packed with Australian stars and talented home-grown talent.

"Leadership is not new for me as I have led sides before. The challenge was to lead different players from different countries and backgrounds," Sneh told *Sportstar* ahead of the WPL's second edition. Sneh has led the Railways successfully and being a part of team think-tanks across the spectrum due to her experience and adaptability.

"I had to identify their strengths and use that in our strategy and quickly too. Learnings from the first season were largely about adaptability and what kind of changes I can bring in a format as short as T20s.

"Our opponents had teams with a diverse set of players, some of whom we've never played against at any level. So how to prepare for them and do so successfully was something I learnt so much about last time," she added.

Not much went the Giants' way in 2023 as the outfit finished dead last. Frustrating results and an injury to her fingers notwithstanding, Sneh's confidence never wavered as she carried her team through a trying first attempt in the tournament. The experience has helped the team stay pragmatic as they gear up for a fresh start.

"Victory and defeat don't have to be linked to our confidence. The team environment was always positive. Our failures didn't define us. As a team, we're taking things one day at a time. We're not thinking about the final or the knockouts or getting ahead of ourselves by any means. We'll take it in parts," she said.

Sneh's demeanour betrays no emotions. She's the one always bringing the unit together, choreographing dance steps to the latest tracks out there and making friends among teammates and opponents alike. The embers of disappointment or regret from the WPL experience in Mumbai, if any, were doused by a rather positive year after it. She helped her domestic sides to a few title triumphs and finished the year with a 'Player-of-the-match' award from India's first-ever Test win against Australia.

Though Sneh has not been part of T20I mix since the semifinal of the 2023 ODI World Cup against Australia, where India suffered a heartbreaking five-run loss in Cape Town, a good showing in the WPL could bring her into the equation again.

"The only thing in my control is the month I have in the WPL. I can't control the way selections happen or anything else beyond what I can do with bat and ball, so my focus is going to be on the same. If I do well, potentially, the results of it will be good. So whether I make it to the World Cup squad or not is something I'm leaving to time," Sneh said with a smile.

Aged 27 during the Test against England three years ago, the tag of being a potential late bloomer came Sneh's way. She knows the perils of age being one's first identifier in an ecosystem that is packed with players bursting onto the scene in their teens.

This edition of the WPL, however, has a number of players belonging to the 30-and-above bracket gearing up for their tournament debut.

SPORTZPICS/WPL

Praiseworthy

"First of all, hats off to their dedication. If you're dedicated while pursuing something without recognition and still passionate to keep at it, it is definitely praiseworthy. Age really isn't a criterion we should use any more. When players are fit, that is all that should matter. We have so many examples. Look at Ekta Bisht. Even at 38, she is so quick on the field and is a cut above the rest," Sneh underlined.

She also finds herself in a familiar territory with healthy representation from the Indian domestic scene in the tournament.

"I like the fact that so many domestic players are coming into these spheres. I like interacting with these players because they come with a lot of confidence.

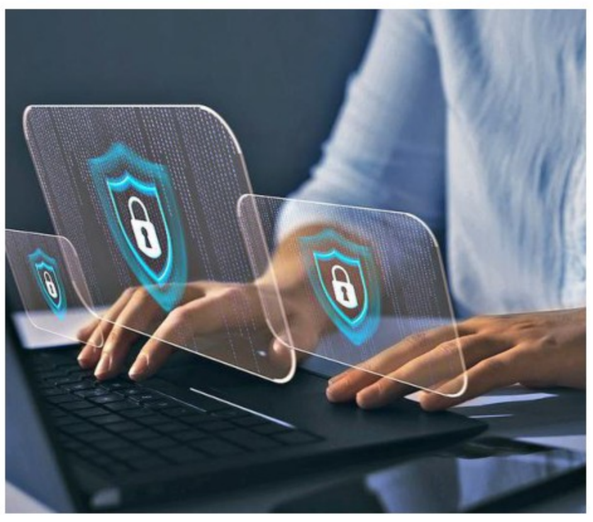
"They are constantly asking us questions about how to improve and what they can do differently in certain situations. Interacting with these players, you can breathe easy that the future of Indian cricket is very bright," she signed off.

City police to start 'Cyberspace', centre for excellence for cyber security in PPP mode

The centre 'Cyberspace' will be housed within the Police Commissioner's office and will have personnel from both city police and experts from the private sector

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

With Bengaluru registering nearly three-fourths of the cybercrimes among all metro cities in the country, the city police will soon be armed with "Cyberspace", a centre for excellence for cyber security. Modelled on "Cyberdome" of Kerala Police, the centre will come up in Public Private Partnership (PPP).



Kerala police started Cyberdome in 2017 and is now regarded as a model institution, which is being adapted in Bengaluru as well.

IT capital

"Bengaluru is the IT capital of the country and Bengaluru City Police is leading in the adoption of technology in the country. We also register the maximum number of cyber crimes in the country and going ahead we see this only rising further. So we will set up a centre of excellence within the city police with an aim to stay ahead of the curve, in fighting cybercrimes," said Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda.

The centre "Cyberspace" will be housed within the police commissioner's office and will have personnel from both city police and experts from the private sector.

"The Centre will act as a Research and Development (R&D) wing for all technological needs of the city police, especially in fighting cybercrimes. The Centre will work on issues like adoption of Artificial Intelligence to see patterns in cybercrimes, digital forensics, work to plug holes in the systems to prevent cyber crimes among other issues. The Centre will also assist the City Police in complex investigations involving technology like cryptocurrency frauds among others," explained Raman Gupta, Additional Commissioner (Administration), Bengaluru City Police.

Kerala Police started Cyberdome in 2017 and is now regarded as a model institution, which is being adopted in Bengaluru as well.

"We are in talks with the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and other Information Technology giants in the city for the project. They have shown interest and we will soon finalise the modalities," Mr. Gupta said.

The State police had also proposed a Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC), which made it to the budget presented by then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in February 2023, with an allocation of ₹20 crore, but was later dropped in the subsequent budget.

A senior official said that while Cyberspace would be a great addition to the city and state police to fight cybercrimes, a CSOC was also needed to counter and respond to cyber attacks in real time. "Despite Bengaluru being the IT capital of the country and the most susceptible to cybercrimes and attacks, we are far behind states like Kerala, Odisha and Maharashtra in building institutional infrastructure to respond to these threats," the official lamented.

Elderly couple found dead in their home at Ittamadu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The deceased have been identified as Krishna Naidu and Sarojamma

An elderly couple, 84 and 74 years, were found dead on the top floor of their three-storey residential building in Ittamadu in Chennamanakere Achukattu on Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Krishna Naidu and Sarojamma.

The couple had a son who was married and staying with his wife.

While the couple were staying on the top floor of the building, while the other portions were rented out.

The incident came to light when the neighbours noticed no movement from the room locked from inside for a long time and peeped through the window to find the duo dead.

The police shifted the bodies for post-mortem and registered a case of unnatural death for further investigations.

(Those having distress or suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on Ph. 104 for help).

CID arrests another accused in sex determination racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing investigations into the sex determination racket busted by the Baiyappanahalli police in October last year, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials who took over the investigations arrested another person, identified as Siddhesh, on Thursday and seized a third scanning machine from him.

The accused used to abort girl foetuses after determining the gender. For each scan, they used to charge ₹18,000 to ₹20,000

Earlier this month, the CID officials arrested Lakshman Gowda M., owner of Avishkar Brothers Biomedical Private Limited in Mangaluru, for allegedly supplying three scanning machines to the accused who were part of the racket. The accused were licensed holders for procurement, repair, and sale of scanning machines who sold them to Dr. Mallikarjuna, who in turn passed it on to the accused illegally without valid authorization.

While the officials had recovered two machines earlier during the investigations, Siddhesh was absconding along with the third machine.

Siddhesh 34, a native of Davangere caught from K.R. Pete, is among 18 accused in the racket. His job was to ferry customers and also transport machines from one scanning centre to another, a senior officer leading investigation said.

The incident came to light in October last year when the night beat police, during a routine vehicle check around Old Madras Road, stopped the accused Veeresh and Gowda - the first arrests - who were taking a pregnant woman to Mandya in a vehicle but sped away without stopping. The police gave a hot chase and nabbed them at the NGEF signal.

Investigations revealed that the accused used to take pregnant women to a jaggery making unit in Mandya, where they had a medical set-up consisting of a scan and ultrasound machines. The accused used to abort girl foetuses after determining the gender. For each scan, they used to charge ₹ 18,000-20,000. Seven women were found there when the police raided the place.

Death toll rises to five in fire accident at deodorant unit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The charred remains of the scrap warehouse at Ramasandra in Kumbalagod. FILE PHOTO

An eleven-year-old boy, who sustained third degree burns and was admitted to Victoria hospital in Bengaluru after the fire at a deodorant unit in Kumbalgodu, succumbed on Wednesday.

With this, the death toll in the fire has gone up to five, including a 15-year-old boy who succumbed on February 20.

According to the police, Rehan along with his friend Sajid, a class 8 student, had gone to give lunch to his father Afroz Pasha.

Afroz was working in the unit as a driver and had joined only a few days ago.

Afroz, along with two other injured, Irfan Pasha and Allabhaksh, are under treatment in the hospital .

According to the police, the prime accused in the case, Saleem, had taken the house on rent from one, Vittal.

He was crushing used deodorant cans for recycling.

He had sourced around 2,000 cans and roped in five people to crush the cans, a police officer said.

He was not aware that the cans have inflammable contents and how to handle them, the police added.

Saleem was killed in the mishap.

The other accused Vittal is absconding, and efforts are on to trace him.

The police are awaiting the Forensic Science Laboratory report to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.

₹50 fees to be collected from SSLC students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) will collect ₹50 from SSLC students to print and transport the question papers for preparatory examination. The preparatory examination will be conducted from February 26 to March 2 at the school level. The question papers will be printed at the Deputy Director's office and sent to high schools. As per usual practice, students will be expected to bring their answer sheets for the preparatory examinations, N. Manjushree, Chairperson, KSEAB said in a press release on Thursday.

धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे
बांधकाम विभाग – ई–निविदा सुचना क्र.238, सन 2023–24

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CMRL invites tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the assignments mentioned below:

Tender No.: **CMRL/NCB/PP&D/CS/DFR-10/2024:** "Preparation of Detail Feasibility Report (DFR) for Property Development including feasibility, market analysis, transactional advice, concept plans, land use report and Tender Documents for the land parcels at Koyambedu Metro, Chennai".
(i) Document available from: 04/03/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 04/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

Tender No.: **CMRL/NCB/PP&D/CS/DPR-11/2024:** "Preparation of Detail Project Report (DPR) for Property Development including feasibility, market analysis, transactional advice, concept plans, land use report with submission of documents to CMDA/GCC for approval and Tender Documents for standalone land parcels near Metro Stations of Corridor-3, CMRL Phase-2".
(i) Document available from: 05/03/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 04/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

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I, RESHMA Taj Salar Sardar Ahamad, R/at No.9, D street, Fort Kalasipalyam, Bangalore-560002, have changed my name to Salar Reshma Taj vide Affidavit dated 16-02-2024 before Notary Varija.C.J, Bangalore.

I, SHUBHA Rani Ajit Deshmukh, W/O Ajit Deshmukh, R/O Flt No A014, Sobha Magnolia, Btm 1st Stage, Gurappanapalya, Bannerughatta Rd, Blr–29. Have Changed My Name As " Shubha Rani " Vide Afdvt Dtd 21/02/24

I Sharon Eliora Nalluri D/o.of Narendra Nath Nalluri R/o.302, Mallikarjuna Mansions, N.R Layout, Behind Bata Show Room, Kundalahalli, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore - 560037, Karnataka has changed my name from Sharon Nalluri to Sharon Eliora Nalluri for all future purposes.

I, APARNA R Narayanan, D/o Ramanarayanan Venkiteswaran, R/a F.No.202, 2nd Floor, Bijith Classic, K Narayanapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to Aparna Ramnarayanan Iyer vide affidavit dt: 20.02.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients **1) Shri. NANJUNDAPPA KRISHNA MURTHY and 2) Ms. MAHIMA KRISHNA MURTHY,** both residing at 504, Parvati Nagar CHS, Yari Road, Near Sai Ganesh Temple, Versova, Andheri West, MUMBAI-400061, intend to purchase and have entered into an Agreement of Absolute Sale with **Mr. HARISH M TOLANI, Son of Mohan D Tolani and Mrs. TANYA TOLANI, W/o Harish Tolani,** both R/a No. B406, Orchid Whitefield, Hagadur Main Road, Immadihalli, Whitefield, BENGALURU- 560066, in respect of the Apartment described in the Schedule hereunder written who have represented that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property with uninhibited rights to alienate the same in any manner whatsoever.

Any person/s, Banks, Financial Institutions etc., having any right, title, interest, lien or claim by way of inheritance, mortgage, possession, sale, gift, charge, Agreement of Sale/Development or Partition or otherwise of whatsoever nature, with regard to the Schedule Property, is/are hereby called upon to notify with documentary evidence of his/her/their right, title or interest if any, to the below mentioned address, within **15 DAYS** from the date of issue of this Public Notice. Any claim/s or objection/s raised and received after 15 days shall not bind on my clients and my clients shall proceed with the Purchase of the Schedule Property presuming that there are no claim/s or objection/s whatsoever over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

1/23.52nd or 204 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the Property built on piece and parcel of properties bearing HASB Khata Nos.947/452/1, 475/175b/104, 948/457/2 and 376/1 formed out of Survey No.38, of Konena Agrahara, Varthur Hobli, and New Corporation Nos.25, 22,23 and 24, situated at **6th cross, Airport Road, Konena Agrahara, Bangalore,** together with a residential **Flat bearing No.41, on the Fourth Floor** of the building known as **"SHIVA DARSHAN"** with a super built up area of **963 Square Feet**, with all
Civic Amenities thereon, and now bearing **BBMP property No.25/16, 6TH Cross, Airport Road, Konena Agrahara, BBMP Ward No.113, Konena Agrahara, PID No.73-76-25/16, Bangalore.**

RAMESH D SHAH, B.COM., LL.B.,
ADVOCATE
No.1, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Meenakshi Koil St., Cross, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051.
Bangalore Date : 22/02/2024

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works Division Nanded
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. (64) FOR 2023-2024

E-tenders for 15 Works in B-1 form are invited by the Executive Engineer P.W.Division Nanded (Phone No.02462-253711) from the registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works department of Govt. of Maharashtra for the improvement in Dist. Nanded.
1. The tender costs of the above works are more than Rs.1.00 crores.
2. All Information related to this tender is made available on the following website. Also, all the changes will be made available on this website.
www.mahapwd.com
https://mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Nanded

DGIPR/2023-2024/8559

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
https://www.jbvnl.co.in Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

2nd EXTENSION Notice

NIT No. - 406/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

E-tender for selection of full turnkey contractor for development of distribution infra structure in Electric supply Circle ,**Chas** for an estimated cost Rs 156.16 Crores under Loss Reduction of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoJ is hereby extended as per below given revised calendar of events

SN	Details of Work	
1	Development of distribution infrastructure like replacement of LT Conductor to AB Cable Erection of LT & 11kv line, installation of New DTR ,etc	
2	Estimated Cost- Rs 156.16 Crores(all inclusive)	
3	**Calendar of Events :**	
I	**Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online)**	28.02.2024 at 15:00Hrs
II	**Last Date / Time for receipt of offline documents in office of GM(Coml.)**	28.02.2024 upto 12:00Hrs
III	**Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid**	29.02.2024 at 17:00 Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Save Energy, Save Nation for Better Tomorrow

Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)

PR No. 317763 PR 320025 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

E-Tender Notice
National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

CMRL invites tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the assignments mentioned below:

(1) **Tender No: CMRL/NCB/P&D/CS/DPR-07/2024:** "Preparation of Detail Project Report, Land Use Report & Tender Documents including concept design, BOQ & drawings for property development at Alandur Metro station, Chennai"
(i) Document available from: 05/03/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 02/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

(2) **Tender No: CMRL/NCB/P&D/CS/DPR-08/2024:** "Preparation of Detail Project Report including market analysis, transactional advice, land use report with preparation of Tender Documents for property development at Kattupakkam & Alapakkam Junction Metro stations, Chennai"
(i) Document available from: 08/03/2024.
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 10/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

(3) **Tender No: CMRL/NCB/P&D/CS/DPR-09/2024:** "Preparation of Detail Project Report including feasibility, market analysis, transactional advice, concept plans, land use report with submission of documents to CMDA / GCC for approval and Tender Documents for property development at Gandhi Nagar, Boat Club & Nandanam Metro stations, Chennai"
(i) Document available from: 08/03/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 15/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, please visit : **www.chennaimetrorail.org** for NIT
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for Downloading Bid Documents

DIPR/1144/Tender/2024
Chief General Manager (Planning & Design)

The women of ASHA: overworked, underpaid and on the edge of breakdown

ASHAs engage in the double burden of domestic chores while running around the community as health workers, resulting in improper nutrition, inadequate sleep and deprioritising their own health. They are at risk of anaemia, malnutrition and non-communicable diseases

Saumya Kalia

There's a saying in the Chhattisgarhi dialect. *Sukh mein sab hain, dukh mein Mitanin*. Everyone is there in times of joy, but in sorrow, there are only *Mitanins*. The word translates to 'friends'. A friendship, between women, one with the promise of compassion. In 2002, *Mitanins* also came to symbolise care, when Chhattisgarh designated women to play the role of community health workers. They were advocates for resource-deficient communities, friendly faces of a distant health system, agents of both change and care work.

Mitanins inspired the ASHA framework three years later. The Accredited Social Health Activist – a saree-clad cadre of almost 10 lakh women today – is a friend. Her care work dictates the reach and success of India's health schemes. But agents of change tire too. Every ASHA logs in a 'triple shift', spread out between the home, community and health centres. Overworked and underpaid, they are caught in a frenzied rhythm: many do not eat well and sleep enough, and are at risk of anaemia, malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, found a new study supported by the Amit Sengupta Fellowship on Human Rights. It documented the limited autonomy the health workers have over their time, money and well-being.

Experts place the ASHAs' triple burden along an axis of power inequities – where gender, caste, and informal economy intersect. As women 'volunteers', and not designated health care workers, ASHAs experiences cut across "layers of marginalisation", says Bijoya Roy, a public health researcher at the Centre for Women's Development Studies. There is an economic, physical and psychological violence embedded in their role, crafted carefully by a system that refuses to assign value to their labour. "ASHAs provide care, but they are not cared for by anyone, not by the system in any way." It is only during the recent Interim Budget that the Central government announced free health insurance cover for all ASHAs and Anganwadi workers and helpers under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. In 2018, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved an ASHA benefit package, providing coverage for accidents, deaths and disability.

ASHA workers protesting in Bengaluru on February 13, 2024. MURALI KUMAR K.

A day at work

The survey, conducted during COVID-19, traced the lives of 40 ASHAs in Phanda block in Bhopal. Day starts at dawn for many. They cook, fetch water, complete other chores, and soon begin visiting houses in the community. Meals are erratic and irregular: almost 30% of ASHAs said they do not have time to eat in the morning; some carry food for lunch, while others say they were forced to purchase. About 13% of ASHAs said they do not eat anything the whole day. Back home, the women said they were the last to eat their meals.

Almost half do not get enough sleep or rest. "The ASHA has a triple burden that all women workers carry," explained Vandana Prasad, a public health professional associated with Public Health Resource Network. "She is doing housework, childcare, and caring for all homes and families – that too at very poor remuneration." In Phanda, more than half were married at 18-20 years, and about 50% had their first child before 25.

Outside of homes, the duties under their umbrella of work have expanded too: it started with maternal and child health, and now includes vaccination follow-ups, data logging, learning palliative care, reporting domestic violence cases, providing mental health support, and more. "In the name of shifting work, we are adding to the burden on volunteers who are underpaid and overworked," remarks Dr. Roy.

Extreme weather conditions add a degree of precarity. Reports suggest the occupational hazards of working through heat waves or erratic weather will imperil the informal labour force. Extreme heat also creates a 'double burden' for women, according to an Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center report. They are more vulnerable to getting sick from heat, while being responsible for providing paid and unpaid care work. Deteriorating environmental conditions alter their site of work, but "there is little discussion around changing the timing of work" or offering them protective shields, Dr. Roy said. Some States offer raincoats, umbrellas and cycles to ASHAs.

ASHAs' vulnerability to heat stress doesn't technically qualify as an 'occupational hazard' – an ASHA is a volunteer, not a 'worker'.

Their eating habits, irregular times and paucity of nutritious food make them vulnerable to malnutrition, anaemia and non-communicable diseases. Almost half of the ASHAs surveyed in Phanda fall in the obese or overweight category; less than 3% are underweight.

> An ASHA is the only interface there is between the health system and the community
>
> VANDANA PRASAD

An ASHA's health is not an individual burden: only if she is fit can she work for women, children and society. A recent *PLOS Global Public Health* study adds weight to this link: the likelihood that a woman accesses maternal services, and has a safer, institution-based delivery goes up by 1.6 times if they were connected with ASHAs.

A "continual, systematic investment to strengthen the ASHA program" is inextricably linked to advancing India's child and maternal health outcomes, the researchers argued.

Monetary barriers

As volunteers, ASHAs receive an honorarium and performance-based incentives. Among Madhya Pradesh's ASHAs, family monthly incomes varied between ₹5,000 to ₹15,000.

Moreover, ASHAs relied heavily on health department's incentives.

It becomes a form of "economic violence", notes Dr. Roy, when their wages are delayed and fixed honorariums are received months later.

ASHAs incur out-of-pocket expenditures for the logistical costs of their job – on photocopies, travel, mobile data recharge. ASHAs in Bhopal spent up to 63% of their income on logistical costs.

As honorary workers, however, their health is still not covered under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) or similar programmes.

ASHAs as health workers do have greater access to PHCs.

Many faces of violence

Gender and caste hierarchies further shape ASHAs' well-being. Abuse, harassment and assault receive scarce coverage; some were highlighted during the pandemic. "When things go bad, the system disowns her and the community attacks her", Dr. Prasad notes. Without redressal systems or the space to voice her concerns, she "has nowhere to go". Historically, ASHAs and other woman health workers come from marginalised communities. They work with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and medical systems – entities where the social composition is traditionally of men from privileged communities. Working within this health system is a "source of stress", notes Dr. Prasad. "ASHAs have always been the lowest rung in the health system...the least powerful."

A conflict operates in their role as ASHAs. There is a greater sense of status and belonging in the community. As women, it also gives them the freedom to occupy public spaces and move outside domestic spaces. "They gain power in the community, but in the health system, they're powerless," says Dr. Prasad.

Looking after India's ASHAs

The National Health Systems Resource in 2011 published a report documenting ASHAs' duties, hierarchy and reporting mechanism. The document made no mention of working conditions and the challenges they face. Many ASHAs join in anticipation of becoming permanent workers. Resistance without resolution, for years on end, feeds into their powerlessness and intensifies emotional violence. One ASHA said they are expected to be chained to their phone; many work under fear of being fired if they deny care services. The expectation has eluded them thus far. Millions of ASHAs, ANMs and Anganwadis are mobilising. Roads in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka are covered in hues of pink and red. They demand a fixed honorarium; stipulated working hours; access to maternity leaves and pension.

"The most important thing to say about [an ASHA] is that she's not being given the status of a health care worker," Dr. Prasad notes. Care work empowered them, but it also immiserated them physically and emotionally. Dr. Prasad argues that India should "bite the bullet.": make them into full-fledged workers, pay them decently and look after them. "If all ASHAs decide to go on strike , the health system will fairly collapse."

(This story is part of the Amit Sengupta Health Rights Fellowship. The survey was conducted by Shilpa Jain in 2021, during the COVID-19 lockdown.)

(saumya.k@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

- Overworked and underpaid, many do not eat well and sleep enough, and are at risk of anaemia, malnutrition and non-communicable diseases
- The system does them economic, physical and psychological harm by refusing to assign value to their labour
- Duties started with maternal and child health, and now include vaccination follow-ups, data logging, palliative care, reporting domestic violence, and mental health support

World's race to eradicate Guinea worm disease nears the finish line

C. Aravinda

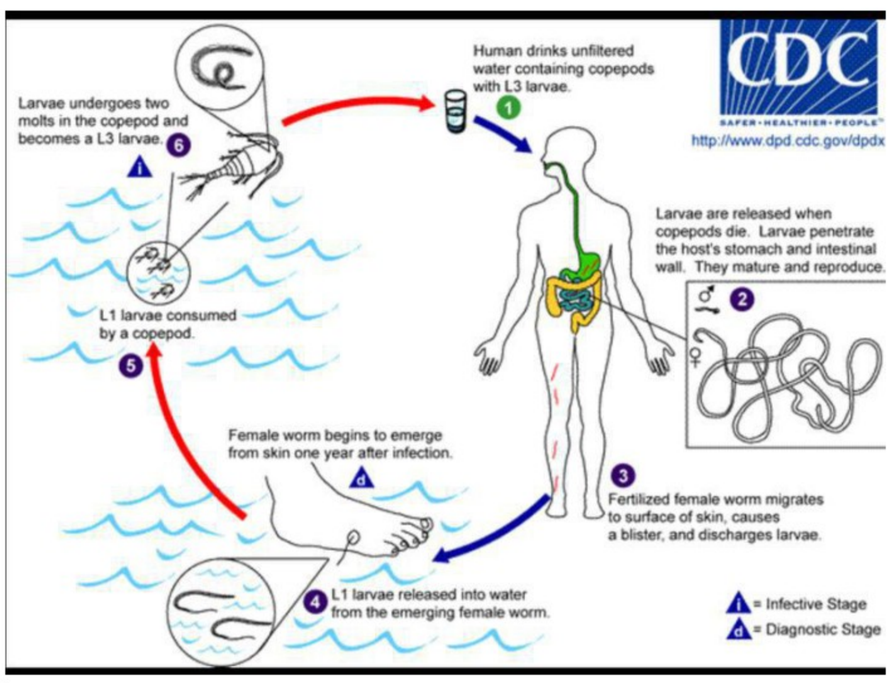
The world is on the brink of a public health triumph as it closes in on eradicating Guinea worm disease. There were more than 3.5 million cases of this disease in the 1980s, but according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) weekly epidemiological report, they dwindled to 14 cases in 2021, 13 in 2022, and just six in 2023.

At a time when medical advancements often headline with breakthrough vaccines and cures, the battle against Guinea worm disease stands out for its reliance on basic public health principles rather than high-tech interventions. Unlike many of its viral counterparts, this parasitic adversary has offered no chance for immunity, defied prevention by vaccines, and resisted most cures – yet the possibility of its eradication is closer than ever thanks to the triumph of human resilience and ingenuity.

Rewind to the 1960s, a period marked by two monumental achievements: humankind's first steps on the moon and the eradication of smallpox. Fast forward to the present, and space exploration has bounded into new frontiers while smallpox remains the lone entry on the list of diseases (of humans) we have managed to banish entirely. This underscores not a failure of medical science but the complex nature of disease eradication.

Infection cycle

Guinea worm disease, also called dracunculiasis, is the work of the Guinea worm (*Dracunculus medinensis*), whose infamy dates back to biblical times, when it was called the "fiery serpent" and whose presence researchers have confirmed in Egyptian mummies. Individuals whose bodies the worm has entered first experience a painful blister, usually on a lower limb. When seeking relief, they may immerse the affected area in water, which prompts the worm to emerge and release hundreds of thousands of larvae, potentially contaminating communal water sources and perpetuating the infection cycle. While a worm by itself is not lethal, it debilitates those whom it infects and prevents them from earning their livelihoods.It manifests as a painful skin lesion as the adult worm – sometimes up to a meter long – emerges. This process, which can last weeks, often begins with a blister and develops into an ulcer from which the worm slowly exits the body. The symptoms involve intense pain, swelling, and sometimes secondary bacterial infections at the wound. Victims may experience fever, nausea, and vomiting.


Larvae undergoes two molts in the copepod and becomes a L3 larvae.
Human drinks unfiltered water containing copepods with L3 larvae.
CDC
SAFER·HEALTHIER·PEOPLE
http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx
Larvae are released when copepods die. Larvae penetrate the host's stomach and intestinal wall. They mature and reproduce.
L1 larvae consumed by a copepod.
Female worm begins to emerge from skin one year after infection.
Fertilized female worm migrates to surface of skin, causes a blister, and discharges larvae.
L1 larvae released into water from the emerging female worm.
= Infective Stage
= Diagnostic Stage

Legs most susceptible

More than 90% of Guinea worm infections manifest in the legs and feet. The individual has an excruciating experience when the adult female worm emerges through the skin. The open sore left by its exit is also susceptible to secondary infections. The disease affects people of both sexes. The struggle against Guinea worm disease is symbolic of a broader fight against the diseases of poverty and the self-fulfilling relationship between poverty and illness. The disease thrive where access to safe drinking water is a luxury, and health education and resources are scant.

India eliminated Guinea worm disease in the 1990s, concluding a commendable chapter in the country's public health history through a rigorous campaign of surveillance, water safety interventions, and education. The government of India received Guinea worm disease-free certification from the WHO in 2000. This accomplishment was the result of a collaboration between the Indian government, local health workers, and international partners. The strategy hinged on empowering local communities with the knowledge and tools – including filtering water before use and reporting cases to health authorities for immediate response.

The strategy that brought us to the brink of eradication was straightforward: intersectoral coordination, community participation, and a sustained focus on prevention through health education. Unlike many diseases that have been cornered by medical interventions, Guinea worm disease was and is being pushed to extinction using the fundamentals of public health: ensuring access to clean water (by applying a larvicide called Temephos), spreading awareness through community workers, and meticulously tracking cases and containing outbreaks.The WHO recorded only six cases of Guinea worm disease in 2023. Nations like South Sudan and Mali, where the disease was once more common, have made commendable progress, although the fight continues in Chad and the Central African Republic.

New reservoir

In 2020, researchers also discovered Guinea worms in animal reservoirs, particularly dogs, in Chad, casting a shadow of complexity over the final stages of eradication. This development is a crucial reminder of the disease's tenacity and, importantly, signals to countries where the disease was previously endemic, including India, to not let their guard down.

If the worm persists in this way, governments must stay vigilant and maintain adaptable public health strategies to ensure they don't lose the upper hand. This said, the significant progress made towards eradicating Guinea worm disease is also threatened by human and political factors, notably civil unrest and poverty. These challenges are not merely logistical but deeply entrenched in the socio-political fabric of the affected areas, where poverty exacerbates vulnerability to disease and conflict disrupts the basic infrastructure required to sustain public health campaigns. In fact, were such conflicts not in the picture, the global community may have crossed the finish line in the fight against Guinea worm disease a decade sooner. The interplay between health and peace is starkly evident in this context, where the absence of stability and security directly affects the fruits of eradication efforts.

Finally eradicating Guinea worm disease wouldn't just represent a victory over a single parasitic but a triumph of humankind at large. It will underscore a collective moral responsibility towards the most vulnerable, and demonstrate the profound impact addressing health disparities can have on communities. Getting rid of this disease will also be a much-needed testament to what we can achieve when global efforts converge to uplift communities from preventable afflictions.

(Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. aravindaaiimsjr10@hotmail.com)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

High Court upholds acquisition of land for Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Layout

A Division Bench set aside single judge's 2014 order of quashing the land acquisition process

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday upheld the acquisition of lands for the formation of Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda layout but imposed conditions on the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on proceeding with the acquisition of 600 acres of lands, which were under litigation before the court since 2010.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order while setting aside the July 11, 2014, verdict passed by a single judge, who had quashed the entire acquisition on the ground that the final scheme of the layout was approved by the State government much prior to the BDA completing the exercise of hearing the grievances of land losers based on preliminary acquisition notification. Single judge's order was stayed by a division in August, 2014.

In numbers

- Preliminary notification issued on May 21, 2008, proposing to acquire **4,814 acres and 15 guntas**
- Final notification issued on February 18, 2010, notifying **4,043 acres and 27 guntas** for acquisition
- Compensation award passed for **2,700 acres**
- 26,918 sites are formed using **2,208 acres** of land
- 104 civic amenities sites are on **149 acres**
- **182 acres 24 guntas** used for parks and open spaces
- **₹1,137.6 crore** spent for underground drainages and **₹768.27 crores** for civil works

Noticing that the litigations before the court was restricted to only around 600 acres of the total 4,043 acres notified by the layout project, the Bench said that the question of discrimination in denotification of similarly situated lands could be considered by adopting conditions imposed by the court in petitions related to layouts formed earlier by the BDA.

Court's conditions

The Bench said that all the land owners/petitioners, who are seeking for dropping of their lands from acquisition on the ground that their lands (like nursery lands; situated within green belt; totally built up; that the buildings are constructed by religious/charitable educational institutions; that similar adjoining lands have been either left out from acquisition or denotified) are permitted to make an application to the BDA within three months from Thursday seeking for dropping of their lands from acquisition by producing all materials in support of their applications.

The BDA, the Bench said, should consider such application/s within six months keeping in mind the status of the lands as on the date of the preliminary notification.

If the BDA, on consideration of applications, finds that acquisition will have to be proceeded with, then the BDA is at liberty to go ahead as per law, the Bench said.

Revenue site owners

The petitioner-revenue site owners should register themselves for allotment under the BDA (Allotment of Sites) Rules, 1984, within three months from Thursday by paying the registration fee and submitting documents, the Bench said while exempting them from making any initial deposit.

The BDA, the Bench said, should treat applicants as being entitled for priority allotment for a site measuring 30X40 ft in the layout at the prevailing allotment prices subject to the applicants satisfying the dual requirements under the Rules, 1984 that they must be the residents of Bengaluru for 10 years and should not be owning any other residential property in Bengaluru.

In case the applicants do not fulfil the requirements for allotment under the Rules, 1984 then they may be considered for allotment of 20x30 ft sites as per the Bangalore Development Authority (Incentive Scheme for Voluntary Surrender of Land) Rules, 1989, the said.

Insofar as the petitioner-owners of residential sites, which form part of private layouts and who have sought for dropping their sites from acquisition, the Bench said that BDA should consider harmonising these private layouts with its layout plan and allot the same sites that are in their possession particularly those who have already built their houses and living there.

If these sites or houses come in the way of formation of the layout, then owners of sites/houses should be allowed to apply for the priority allotment of alternative sites as in the case of revenue site owners, and the BDA should allot sites within it's layout, the Bench said.

Open Day at Institute of Astrophysics on Feb. 25

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) will celebrate National Science Day as IIA Open Day on February 25, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at its campus in Koramangala.

This event is open to the general public, is free of charge, and prior registration is not required.

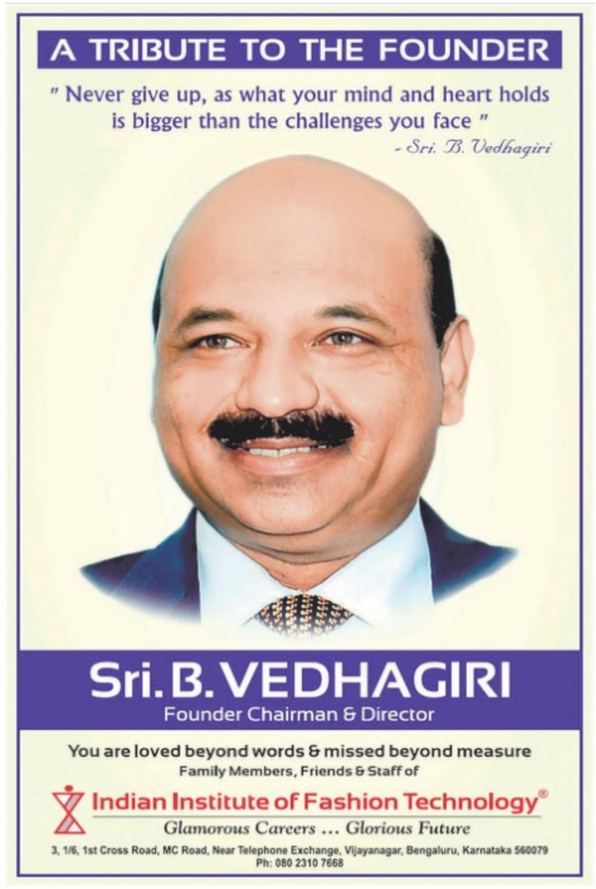
The institute will showcase its research in astrophysics and its vast knowledge through models, demonstrations, and posters. In addition, there will be a number of attractions for students and the general public.

In the 'Ask an Astronomer' event, astronomers from the institute will be present throughout the day to answer questions from the visiting public. Posters on major areas of astronomy will be exhibited.

Experiments on the physics of optics using lasers, viewing of sunspots, and a demonstration of a tethered helium balloon will take place throughout the day.

Models from ISRO and the Jawaharlal Nehru planetarium will be exhibited at the event.

In addition, many external astronomy organisations will be setting up stalls as well. Some astronomy themed merchandise will be on sale.


A TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDER
" Never give up, as what your mind and heart holds is bigger than the challenges you face "
- Sri. B. Vedhagiri
Sri. B. VEDHAGIRI
Founder Chairman & Director
You are loved beyond words & missed beyond measure
Family Members, Friends & Staff of
Indian Institute of Fashion Technology®
Glamorous Careers ... Glorious Future
3, 1/6, 1st Cross Road, MC Road, Near Telephone Exchange, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560079
Ph: 080 2310 7668

Bill that helps developers secure additional FAR at a premium passed in Council amid BJP walkout

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst walk out by the BJP, the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, that will help developers secure additional floor area (FAR) at a premium, was passed by the Legislative Council on Thursday.

The BJP opposed the bill stating that it would create confusion and increase density in Bengaluru. It wanted the bill referred to the House Committee for further review, which was not accepted. "Referring the bill to the house committee can delay the bill temporarily, but ultimately it will become a law. We have only simplified the law and expect the revenues to increase," said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition Kota Srinivas Poojary said that the amendment would result in corruption and would create confusion. BJP member K.S. Naveen said that those with land parcels would benefit from the amendment and

The BBMP on Wednesday notified the tax slabs and rates that will come into effect on April 1

could cause congestion in areas that have narrow lanes while another BJP member Keshavprasad urged the bill to be referred to the House committee.

Earlier in the day, amidst concerns expressed over property tax to be levied based on the guidance value in Bengaluru, the BBMP (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was passed in Legislative Council. Mr. Shivakumar justified the new property tax regime citing the directions from the Centre based on the 15th Finance Commission recommendation.

Outside tax net

"About five to seven lakh properties are outside the tax net in Bengaluru. The property tax calculation based on guidance value is on the direction from the Finance Commission. Property owners in Bengaluru could get a relief of about ₹2,000 crore while BBMP will net about ₹1,000 crore in tax," he told the Legislative Council.

While the bill had been passed in the Legislative Assembly earlier, the BBMP on Wednesday notified the tax slabs and rates that will come into effect on April 1, 2024.

Notified slums exempted

Responding to various concerns expressed by the members, he said that notified slums have been exempted along agriculture land in 110 villages coming in BBMP limits. "Only converted land parcels will be taxed. This is a progressive bill."

On concerns expressed by the members that big tax defaulters had benefitted in the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme that entails 50% rebate, Mr. Shivakumar clarified that the OTS is applicable only for the interest part and not the tax. Further, it is being extended to only residential properties and not commercial properties. "Notices have been issued to about 70,000 properties. Interest rate on penalty has also been brought down from 24% to 9%."

Earlier, BJP member K.S. Naveen said: "Pensioners who earlier bought properties in old areas of Jayanagar, Basavangudi and Sadashivanagar will have difficulty in paying higher tax due to high guidance value as they do not have any alternative income. Those living in old properties but do not have regular income would also be in trouble. This is unscientific." Other members including JD(S) members K.A. Thippeswamy and Govindaraju and BJP member Gopinath also raised the concerns of tax burden going up on the middle class property owners in old areas.

Pointing out another problem, BJP member Bharathi Shetty said: "In several instances, the land owners/ developers have not transferred khata in favour of the buyers. In these cases, who has to pay the tax?"

'Cable car project to be taken up after obtaining NOC'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The project of running a cable car from Kodachadri hilltop in Shivamogga district to Kollur in Udupi district will be taken up after obtaining a no-objection certificate from the Wildlife Board.

B.Y. Raghavendra, Lok Sabha member of Shivamogga informed that the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, headed by Nitin Gadkari, had given approval for the project, which is expected to cost ₹380 crore. The National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) had prepared a detailed project report following a site visit by its experts.

NHLML had an agreement with the Karnataka State Tourism Department for taking up the project.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, FEB. 23		
RISE	06:39	SET 18:27
RISE	17:40	SET 05:54
SATURDAY, FEB. 24		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:27
RISE	18:27	SET 06:32
SUNDAY, FEB. 25		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:28
RISE	19:13	SET 07:08

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	23
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	33	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night will remain slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
PATNA - 801507
(An Autonomous body under MoHFW, Govt. of India)

INSTITUTE LEVEL SPOT COUNSELLING FOR ADMISSION IN SUPER SPECIALTY (DM/M.Ch) COURSES FOR JANUARY 2024 SESSION AT AIIMS PATNA

Admission to the vacant Super Specialty (DM/M.Ch) seats for the session January-2024 will be held on 28th February, 2024 from 10:00 AM onwards at E-classroom, Medical College Building, AIIMS Patna.
The seats will be filled on the basis of merit list issued by AIIMS New Delhi for SS (DM/M.Ch) courses examinations (INI-SS Examination) held on 28th October, 2023.
The eligible candidates interested in the Institute level Spot Counselling must compulsorily register online for the same by 05:00 PM on 26.02.2024 (website for registration : **www.aiimspatna.edu.in.**
Registered candidates should report with required original documents (refer Spot Counselling Notice available at AIIMS Patna website) by 09:00 AM on 28.02.2024.
The schedule and seat position is tentative and any change will be under the discretion of the Executive Director, AIIMS Patna.
Tentative seat matrix is as under:

S.No.	Courses	Subjects	Vacant
1	DM	Cardiology	1
2	M.Ch	C.T.V.S	12
3	M.Ch	Neurosurgery	1
4	DM	Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine	4
5	M.Ch	Paediatric Surgery	6
6	M.Ch	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	8
7	M.Ch	Trauma Surgery & Critical Care	3
		Total	**35**

For any query/information regarding Institute level Spot Counselling, contact, PG Admission Cell, O/o the Dean (Academics), Mobile No. 8544423532 & 0612-2451006, Email ID: **admission@aiimspatna.org**

Sd/-
Dean (Academics)
AIIMS, Patna

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NEXA KORAMANGALA (KATARIA AUTOMOBILES PVT. LTD. PH: 8046837002),
NORTH BANGALORE: NEXA HEBBAL ORR (VARUN MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9513838777), NEXA YELAHANKA (MANDOVI MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9886003030),
WEST BANGALORE: NEXA NAGARBHAVI (BIMAL AUTO AGENCY PH: 08030693069), NEXA RAJAJINAGAR (VARUN MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 8884000042),
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NEXA WHITEFIELD (VARUN MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9620827474), NEXA BANASWADI (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9590990011),
TUMKUR: NEXA SIRA ROAD (SAKETH AUTOMOBILES PH: 9900500051), MYSORE: NEXA VINOBA ROAD (MANDOVI MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9148973098),
NEXA VANI VILAS ROAD (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9845943743), HASSAN: NEXA THANNIRUHALLA (VENKAT MOTORS PH: 9606939489, 9606939490).
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Asian Development Bank's loan for fintech education

23 in $ million. The Asian Development Bank said it has approved the loan to enhance access to quality fintech education, research, and innovation at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City in India. PTI

New fair and remunerative price of sugarcane

340 ₹ per quintal. Sugarcane FRP was increased by ₹25 to ₹340 per quintal for the 2024-25 season. Fair and Remunerative Price is the minimum price that mills have to pay. PTI

Small growers' share in Assam's tea production

47 % A total of 1,17,304 hectares of land is under cultivation by small growers in the State. The minimum price for green leaves produced by the small growers in 2022-23 was ₹13.78 per kg. PTI

Candidates who will compete in Iran elections

15,200 They will compete for a four-year term in the 290-seat chamber that hard liners have controlled for two decades. That is a record number. AP

Volkswagen recalling cars to fix pump problem

2.6 in lakh. Volkswagen (VW) is recalling these cars in the U.S. to fix a potential fuel leak that can increase the risk of fires. The recall is the second for many car owners. AP

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EU mulls sweeping forced labour

How do multinational corporations typically respond to allegations of human rights violations in their Chinese supply chains? What specific actions have German companies taken in response to accusations of forced labour? How stringent are the provisions of the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act?

EXPLAINER

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:

German industry is back in the spotlight as it grapples with the challenges of balancing an increasingly intrusive Chinese business environment with the human rights concerns of its investors and governments. Recent issues involve Volkswagen (VW) -owned brands' vehicles impounded in the U.S. due to Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA) violations. BASF, another German firm, accelerates Xinjiang petrochemical plant sales amid allegations of staff from a government-owned joint venture sharing evidence to Chinese authorities about the Uyghur communities. Similar concerns were raised in 2020 against Apple's supplier Lens Technology, alleging resort to forced labour. The same year, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in its report, alleged four instances of Apple's links to forced labour from supply chains based in Xinjiang. The U.S. State Department and UN Human Rights Commissioner's reports highlight Uyghur repression as genocide and potential crimes against humanity.

How do big corporations respond to such allegations?

Outright denial, or attempts to distance themselves from reports of illegality found by internal audits, have mostly been the standard response of multinationals with operations in China and their suppliers. For instance, VW has said that it had no knowledge of the component's origin until links were traced to an indirect supplier, prompting the firm to notify U.S. authorities and raise the matter with its Chinese partner. In a separate case relating to the use of forced labour, VW claimed in December that its factory in Xinjiang was cleared of wrongdoing by an auditor. However, most of the staff from the consultancy firm distanced themselves from the findings, leading its owner to issue counterclaims.

BASF has dismissed any evidence of the existence of forced labour in its supply chains while maintaining that the allegations were incompatible with its values. German media claim that audits carried out by BASF show that erroneous practices by its Chinese partner were pervasive.

Industry scrutiny: VW's current woes are likely to provide a major push. REUTERS

As regards to Apple, it was one of many firms that faced criticism for lobbying the U.S. Congress to water down the provisions of the 2021 UFLPA. Rights groups say that Lens Technology was just one of five of Apple's suppliers to resort to forced labour, Amazon and Tesla are some of the others. Meanwhile, Apple has backed Lens's claim of the absence of any rights abuses, affirming its zero-tolerance policy on this matter, including surprise audits and termination of business with errant suppliers.

How stringent is the U.S. law?

The 2021 Act aims to penalise domestic firms for human rights violations including torture, arbitrary detentions and forced labour of some one million Uyghur Muslims in the country's north-western region's so-called internment camps for over a decade. The U.S. law presumes that all inbound imports sourced from Xinjiang were produced using forced labour and labels them "high priority" areas.

One key provision in the UFLPA requires public companies to certify to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that their products are free from forced labour from Xinjiang. Companies were apprehensive that the latter provision could prove a headache, much like the one in the Dodd-Frank Act that obliges firms to declare that their products did not contain controversial minerals from Congo, posing a hurdle for gold imports. During the legislative stage, the Bill passed the House of Representatives 403-to-6 and even called out specific companies for inappropriate practices. Predictably, this triggered industry backlash in the Senate to dilute some of its provisions.

How has China dealt with the fallout from this controversy?

Beijing initially denied the existence of the internment camps or dismissed such claims as outright lies. The government has since played down the significance of these facilities as merely vocational training centres, designed to create employment and combat religious and separatist extremism in the Uyghur Muslim population. In response to the U.S. law, the Chinese government has moved detainees to other parts of the country and routed exports from outside Xinjiang. While Nike and H&M are among the firms that have been hit by the restrictions on the use of Xinjiang cotton, Chinese customers have in retaliation boycotted their products.

What is the status of the EU legislation?

Unlike the U.S. ban's focus on imports from Xinjiang, the European Union (EU) has proposed a more comprehensive law targeting all products reliant on forced labour, including those made within the 27-member bloc. There is concern that country-focused bans could be viewed as discriminatory measures under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. The law aims to apply the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s definition of forced labour and concentrate enforcement on large companies. The EU trade officials are sceptical that a ban on imports is the best way to prevent rights abuses.

Meanwhile, a separate EU-wide Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, targeting social, environmental and human rights abuses in supply chains, has also stalled since 2022. The proposal would oblige companies to report and prevent abuses in the environmental and social governance arenas, and even empower civil society groups to mount legal challenges against any adverse impact. France has enacted a national law on the subject. But Paris has called for banks not to be held liable for the shortcomings of clients in the EU Directive, a clause some European parliament members insist is much needed in the enforcement of greater accountability on investment decisions.

A German proposal for national legislation on supply chain sustainability met with fierce resistance from different Ministries and multinationals. But Berlin used its rotating presidency of the EU Council in 2020 to table a proposal for the entire EU. Predictably, domestic objections found an echo on the EU stage, with the Free Democratic Party, a constituent in the ruling coalition calling the measure a "self-strangulation."

When the forced labour Regulation and the due diligence Directive are in place, the EU would set yet another precedent in establishing governance standards for world bodies to emulate. VW's current woes are likely to provide a major push in that direction.

THE GIST

- German companies face the challenge of balancing business in China with growing human rights concerns.
- Allegations of forced labour impact major firms like VW, BASF, and Apple, prompting varied responses.
- The U.S. 2021 Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act tightens regulations on Xinjiang-related imports.
- China denies internment camp claims, shifts detainees, and enforces restrictions.
- The EU considers comprehensive legislation targeting forced labour, while Germany grapples with national and EU supply chain sustainability proposals.
- VW's current challenges highlight the global debate on corporate accountability and governance standards.

Are Interpol's notices being politically exploited?

How do Blue corner notices differ from red corner notices in terms of timing and purpose? What steps has Interpol taken to address criticism and enhance oversight of its notice system?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The International Criminal Police Organization, more commonly known as Interpol, comprising 194 member countries, plays a crucial role as an information-sharing network to enable national police forces to combat transnational crimes. Concerns have been raised about the misuse of Interpol's notice system, especially the issuance of blue corner notices, which are less scrutinised than their red corner notices. Critics argue that countries often exploit existing protocols to target political refugees and dissidents. While efforts have been made to address this, questions remain about striking a balance between facilitating police cooperation and preventing misuse of this powerful tool.

What is a "blue corner" notice?

There are seven types of notices issued by Interpol – Red Notice, Yellow Notice, Blue Notice, Black Notice, Green Notice, Orange Notice, and Purple Notice.

A blue corner notice also known as an "enquiry notice" allows police forces in member states to share critical crime-related information such as obtaining a person's criminal record, and location and, having his or her identity verified among others. For instance, in January 2020, Interpol issued a blue corner notice to help locate fugitive self-styled godman Nithyananda.

How does it differ from a "red corner" notice?

A red corner notice is issued by a member state to arrest a wanted criminal through extradition or any other similar lawful action. Such notices are issued against persons wanted by national jurisdictions for prosecution or to serve a sentence based on an arrest warrant or a court decision. The country issuing the request need not be the home country of the fugitive, Interpol acts even on the request of a country where the alleged crime has been committed.

While blue corner notices are issued prior to the filing of criminal charges, red corner notices generally follow criminal convictions. The concerned individual can be stopped and arrested while travelling through a member state. There will also be other detrimental consequences such as the closure of bank accounts. However, Interpol cannot compel law enforcement authorities in any country to arrest the subject of a red corner notice as the exercise of such powers is entirely discretionary.

In 2018, a red corner notice was issued against fugitive billionaire Nirav Modi in relation to the Punjab National Bank scam. However, in October 2022, Interpol rejected a second request by India to issue such a notice against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, whom the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has listed as a "terrorist." The agency said that India has failed to provide sufficient information to support its case and that his activities have a "clear political dimension."

Is the notice system prone to misuse?

Although Interpol's Constitution explicitly forbids any activities of a political character, activists have accused it of failing to enforce this rule. Much of this outrage is directed at Russia, which has repeatedly issued notices and diffusions for the arrest of Kremlin opponents. According to the U.S. rights organisation Freedom House, Russia is responsible for 38% of all public red notices.

International human rights groups have also accused China, Iran, Turkey, and Tunisia, among others, of abusing the agency's notice system for authoritarian ends.

In response to the mounting criticism, Interpol toughened the oversight of its red notice system. However, vulnerabilities remain when it comes to the issuance of blue notices with experts flagging that such notices are less likely to be reviewed before publication. The agency's data shows that blue notices have roughly doubled in number over the past decade.

But countries like Turkey argue that such restraint in the issuance of notices hampers police cooperation and that the West should not interfere with their internal affairs.

THE GIST

- Interpol, established in 1923, facilitates cooperation among 194 member countries to combat transnational crimes.
- Blue corner notices, also known as "enquiry notices," enable sharing of crucial crime-related information among member states.
- Questions arise about Interpol's effectiveness in preventing notice system misuse, the influence of political agendas, and the adequacy of oversight.

HC declines to interfere with Railway's tweaked policy

According to the new policy, CCTV camera footage of the kitchen, from where food is sourced, can be seen in real time on scanning QR code printed on food packet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to interfere with the tweaking made to the Indian Railway's catering services policy to improve hygiene and accountability in maintenance of quality of food supplied to passengers and the kitchens from where food is sourced.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by the South Western Railway Catering Contractors' Association, Bengaluru. The petitioner-association had questioned the legality of changes made in the Catering Policy of 2017 by amending the policy in November 2023. One of the many new features, introduced to build confidence on food quality in the eyes of passengers by amending the policy, was to provide CCTV access through a QR code printed on the food packets enabling live streaming of kitchen, from where food sourced by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC). However, the petitioners, besides claiming that changed policy was not in public interest, had also contended that policy was amended without the approval of the Cabinet unlike the 2017 policy, which was introduced through the Union budget after "approval" by the Cabinet.

"If hygiene, quality of food, and accountability are to be brought in, it cannot be said that such policy is illegal and contrary to public interest. Catering contractors are seeking to project their interest over and above what is aforesaid, which is in the realm of public interest," the court observed.

Meanwhile, the court rejected petitioner's contentions by noticing that no subsisting catering contracts have been disturbed on account of implementation of the new policy. The court also said that it cannot sit in the armchair of experts to scrutinise or monitor commercial policy decisions of the Railways.

Appearing for the Railways, Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta had pointed out that there were certain gaps in the policy which had created a big problem in maintaining food quality as distributors used to blame kitchens from where food was sourced. The tweaked policy, the SGI had said, would fix accountability on preparation and supply of food, and the moment QR code is scanned the kitchen from where the food comes can be seen in real time.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd

E-TENDER NOTICE

MSETCL SRM invites online RFx (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.
E-tender No./ RFx No. 7000030038 Name of Work : "Replacement of existing 0.35 ACSR Sheep conductor by High Performance conductor and replacement of existing suspension tower by 30 Tension tower at Loc. No. 626 & 632 along with additional 1 No. of tower between Loc. No. 638-639 for height rising & replacement of 2 Nos. of tower at Loc. No. 648 - 649 of 220 kV Apta - Taloja, 220 kV Apta - Kalwa and 220 kV Kalwa -Taloja line under EHV PC O&M Zone, Vashi.." Estimated Cost: Rs. 51,59,33,803.00. Tender Fees : Rs. 25,000/-+ GST.
Date for Sale and Submission of the e-Tender Documents: From 23.02.2024 @ 14.00 Hrs to 15.03.2024 @ 15.00 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: https://srmetender.mahatransco.in -Sd-
CHIEF ENGINEER, EHV PC (O&M) Zone, **Vashi**

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM

e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice
IFB Nos. 119/2023-24 Dt.10.01.2024 (3rd Call)

Tender for the work of **"Collection of Entrance fee from the Tourist visiting Fish Aquarium, TB Dam for the period from 03.03.2024 to 02.03.2025"** in respect of & HW HW & HLC Division, TB Dam under 'Collection of Fee' categories is re-invited through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	**23.02.2024 at 11:00 AM**
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time:	**29.02.2024 at 3:00 PM**
Bid Submission End Date & Time:	**29.02.2024 at 5:30 PM**
Date of opening of PQ Stage:	**29.02.2024 at 6:00 PM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage:	**01.03.2024 at 11:00 AM**

Further details can be seen @ **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
Ph: 08394 – 259114 Sd/- **Superintending Engineer**
Fax 08394 - 259167 I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED

(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005 | Email: tamin@tamingranites.com | Website: www.tamingranites.com
No.TAMIN/14872023-P5 Dated: 22.02.2024

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E-Tendering Portal: https://tntenders.gov.in
Online tenders are invited in two cover system for the following tender.

1	Description of work	Total Production contract for production of quality granite blocks without defect in certain granite quarries of TAMIN
2	Tender No. & Date	**TAMIN/1487/2023-P5, Dated: 23.02.2024**
3	Tender ID	**2024_TNMIN_428987_1, 2024_TNMIN_429043_1, 2024_TNMIN_429061_1, 2024_TNMIN_429088_1, 2024_TNMIN_429101_1**
4	Pre Bid Date	**13.03.2024 (Wednesday) at 11.00 hours**
5	Bid submission End Date	**25.03.2024 up to 1400 hrs.**
6	Technical Bid Opening Date	**26.03.2024 at 1600 hrs.**
7	Financial Bid Opening Date	Will be intimated later on through Tamil Nadu Government's e-Tender portal
8	Technical form Fee & EMD	Rs.2000/- (Non refundable) & Rs.2,36,000/- online payment only

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal: **https://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1176/TENDER/2024 **GENERAL MANAGER(FINANCE)**

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Department of Local Government
(World Bank-Goods / Services)
Reference No. NIT / S.E.(c)/18 Date: 20.02.2024

Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invite Bids from the eligible bidders for the following Project funded from World Bank:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1	Hardware & Equipment for revamping existing IT Infrastructure in Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.	Rs. 219.60 Lacs

Closing Date & Time : 21.03.2024 upto 02:00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting : 29.02.2024 at 12:30 PM
Technical Bid Opening : 21.03.2024 upto 02:30 PM
For Detail log onto : https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer(c)
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.
NA/12/22251/2023/32755

KELADI SHIVAPPA NAYAKA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, SHIVAMOGGA - 577412

Administrative Office, Sharavathi Administrative Block, II floor, Iruvakki. Mobile No: 9480838219 Email: ao@uahs.edu.in
No:KSNUAHSS/AO/Rectt. of Officers Post/2855/2023-24
Date: 20-02-2024

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Recruitment of Officers Posts (on tenurial basis) in the Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Shivamogga...Reg.

Applications are invited in the prescribed proforma from the eligible candidates for filling up the following Officers posts (on tenurial basis) in the Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Shivamogga. **OFFICER POSTS**: (Academic Level 14 Scale of Pay: Rs. 1,44,200 -2,18,200 and admissible allowances)

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of post
1	Director of Education	01
2	Registrar	01
3	Director of Research	01
4	Director of Extension	01
5	University Librarian	01
6	Dean (Agri.), COA, Shivamogga	01
7	Dean (Forestry), COF, Ponnampet	01
	Total	**07**

The Candidates who are interested to apply for the said posts may refer the official website of KSNUAHS, Iruvakki, Shivamogga, and can download the application and information from the official website: www.uahs.edu.in for further details and apply for the posts as per terms and conditions of KSNUAHS, Iruvakki, Shivamogga. Filled in application together with allied enclosures should be submitted in an envelope superscribing on it application for Officers Posts to the Administrative Officer, Keladi Shivappga Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Shivamogga-577 412 on or before 20-03-2024 at 5.00 PM.

Sd/- Administrative Officer.
DIPR/smg/No.168/02/23-24/KSMCA/1344

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ

ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560 099
ಫೋನ್: 080–27834655, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com
ಸಂ:TMCB/ENG/MF/Tender 12/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.02.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 06 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 130.95 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಏಕ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **08.03.2024ರ ಸಮಯ: 17:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11.03.2024 ರ ಸಮಯ: 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ (itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com) ಅಥವಾ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಚಿಎ/3795/2023–24 ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ

Government Of Karnataka
Executive Engineer. PRE Division, Vijayanagar, 28th ward,3rd Corss M G Nagar, Hosapete

No:EE/P.R.E/D/PB/Tender/PB/Dif heads/2023-24/1770. Dated:20.02.2024

Short term tender Notification. (Through Government of Karnataka e-procurement)

Karnataka state's behalf of Governor Executive Engineer P.R.E.Divn Vijayanagara, Hosapete district has invited the Road and Building civil Min Rs.10.00Lakhs to Max Rs.100.00lakhs works. Invites Short -term tenders as per KTPP-2000 act through e-procurement for the works Vijayanagara Division under KKRDB & Different heads from the eligible contractor who are registered in PWD Dept. according to the Standard Bid Document KW I,II & III rules and regulations (As per updating in the web) based on turn-key.

Last Date for receipt of tenders: Date: **04.03.2024** (Auto Extension Specialty up to 4 Days)

Corrigendum's / modifications / correction, if any, will be published in the website only & For more information contact to ***https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in*** website and this office (email ID : eepredvijayanagara@gmail.com)

Sd/- EE.PRE.Divn Vijayanagara, Hosapete.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/425/KSMCA/2023-24

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.
Last date for submission of bid: **02.03.2024 upto 4.00 p.m.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1)	**Construction of Additional Class Room/Ladies Waiting Room Toilet Block of Govt. First Grade College For Women at Puttur, Puttur Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District** Tender Reference No: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 172 & IFT No.178/2023-24 Date: 21.02.2024, Amount put to tender **Rs.3,98,22,139/-.**
2)	**Construction of Government First Grade College Building at Chanagiri in Davanagere District under SDP 2021-22 Scheme.** Tender Reference No: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 173 & IFT No.179/2023-24 Date: 21.02.2024. Amount put to tender **1,31,06,473/-**
3)	**Construction of Government First Grade College Building at Santebennur in Davanagere District under SDP 2021-22 Scheme.** Tender Reference No: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 174 & IFT No.180/2023-24 Date: 21.02.2024. Amount put to tender **1,31,64,642/-**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No.080-22273511 / 080-22100077 web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3804/23-24 Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur

IFT No. 19/2023-24 **Date: 17-02-2024**

Short Term tender Notification (Through KPPP)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited item wised tender for 7-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" the eligible registered contactors under PWD through e-procurement. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.**423.65** Lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.**124.66** Lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.**6,35,500/-** and Minimum EMD Amount of Rs.**2,00,000/-** Tender documents is downloaded from the e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 19.02.2024. And Last date for submission of filled tender documents is d: 26.02.2024 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): **6-Months** maximum and **3-Months** minimum. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1130/2023-24

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD, KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI

Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105.
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/RCR_Towns/AMRUT2/2023-24/1482 Date: 22-02-2024

:: SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER-2nd CALL ::

1) Name and description of work : Providing water supply scheme to Hutti, Kavithal, Manvi, Maski and Turuvihal Towns in Raichur District under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode - No variation (Work Indent No : **KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT157/CALL-2),** 2) Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **16770.20** (Excluding GST), 3) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs.in Lakhs): **197.89,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 5) Period of completion including monsoon in months : 18 Months (Eighteen)
1) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **29-02-2024 at 11:30 Hours**, 2) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **07-03-2024 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 3) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **11-03-2024 After 11:00 Hours**, 4) Addl. information: Chief Engineer Office, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi – 585102. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 5) Address of E-portail: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/880/KSMC&A/2023-24

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536789/26096834 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No. KMF/ENGG/MOTHER DAIRY-FFS M/c /2023-24 **Date: 21.02.2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[Two cover System] [Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the works mentioned in the below table. The interested and eligible firms may participate in the tender by logging on to website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & also contact Help desk No.-080 46010000/68948777 E-mail:eproc@helpdesk.com

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of mechanical type Automatic High speed Form Fill Seal twin head Pouch Packing Machines (2 nos.) with accessories and discharge trays, supporting stands on buy back basis at Mother Dairy, Yelahanka	1 Job	50,000/-	3 Months

1. Tenders may be downloaded from dated 23.02.2024 to 08.03.2024 up to 4-00 PM.
2. Last date for Tender submission on 08.03.2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on 11.03.2024 at 11:30 AM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on Karnataka Public Procurement portal only.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BESCOM invites tender to establish Transformer repair center through e-procurement For Repairs and Reconditioning of 11KV class single coil/multi coil Conventional (Aluminium wound) and 3,4,5 Star Rated failed Distribution Transformers of various Capacities from 25 KVA to 500 KVA in BMAZ South Zone and 25 KVA to 250 KVA in BRAZ and CTAZ jurisdictions and Conversion of CSP to Conventional bolt & nut type on % lumpsum basis (Material, Labour & Salvage) at Transformer repair center at Taluk/Divisions of BESCOM jurisdiction vide following enquiry Numbers:

Sl No	Tender No	Taluk /Division	Approx. Amount put to Tender (Rs.in Crs.)
1	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0096	Mulbagilu	1.63
2	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0097	Honnali	1.54
3	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0098	RR Nagar	0.89
4	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0106	Davangere	3.77
5	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0110	Pavagada	3.42
6	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0111	Chandapura	2.44
7	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0112	Turuvekere	2.42

The Bid documents will be available from e-procurement portal **on or after 23.02.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.** The last date for submission of bids is **upto 01.03.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.** The Techno Commercial bids will be opened on **02.03.2024 at 17:30 Hrs.** Pre Bid Meeting is convened on **27.02.2024 at 12:00 Noon** at Board Room, 1st Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate Office, BESCOM, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
The Tenders can be obtained through e-procurement by visiting Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Ele.), Operations-1, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R.Circle,Bangalore-560 001, Ph.No: 080-22085074.

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MiTHRA Mobile App.

TOWN PANCHAYATH, VEMGAL-KURUGAL

Mail id:ka.vemgal.kuragal.tp@gmail.com, Website:http://www.vemagal-kurugaltown.mrc.gov.in

No:TPVK/TECH/27/2023-24 Date: 19.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(as per the conditions of the Standard Tender Document E-Procurement Tender Notification)

Vemgal-Kurugal has invited tender under the 15th Finance General Basic Grants, SFC Drinking Water, SFC United and Municipal Grants. Short Term item rate is invited in two bid system through E-Procurement Portal only as per the GO. No.FD/06/PCL/2006, Bangalore from the Registered, Eligible Contractors. For details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The Indent Numbers details below.

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs.In lakhs)	Category
1	DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT13333/CALL-2	**15.00**	ST
2	DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT13340/CALL-2	**5.16**	ST
3	DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT13346/CALL-2	**1.25**	SC
4	DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT15393	**52.65**	OTHERS
5	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT15439	**0.81**	ST
6	DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT15446	**10.00**	OTHERS
7	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT15454	**1.85**	SC
8	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT15560	**1.50**	SC
9	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT15561	**3.33**	OTHERS
10	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT15563	**12.84**	OTHERS
11	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT15565	**11.40**	OTHERS
12	DMA/2023-24/SE2471	**5.88**	OTHERS

(1) Tender Submission form through E-procurement last **date: 28.02.2024, Time: 17.00.**
(2) Technical Bids opening **date: 29.02.2024, Time: 17.30.**
(3) Financial Bid Opening **date: 01.03.2024, Time: 17.30.**

Sd/- Chief Officer, TP, Vemagal-Kurugal
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:369/KSMCA/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.–584101
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
DC OFFICE RAICHUR DISTRICT, RAICHUR-584101
Telephone No: 08532-229011, 225953
Fax: 08532-229012, Email: deo.raichur@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಂದಾಯ/ಚುನಾವಣೆ/MP/15/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–02–2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು / ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	Supply of Videographer and Video Camera for Elections -2024 in Raichur District. Estimate Amount Rs.84,00,000	RD/2023-24/SE0229
2	Supply of Catering Services for Elections -2024 in Raichur District. Estimate Amount Rs. 14,00,000	RD/2023-24/SE0228
3	Supply of Hiring of Cars on Monthly Rental Basis for Electiions -2024 in Raichur district. Estimate Amount Rs.56,00,000	RD/2023-24/SE0230
4	Supply of Elections Items Stationery & Polling Materials Kit for Elections -2024 in Raichur District. Estimate Amount Rs.68,60,000	DMA/2023-24/IND1517

DIP/RCR/522/KSMC&A/519/2023-24 ಸಹಿ/– ಅಪರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ರಾಯಚೂರು

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

Unveiling the shift: Tamil film and its tryst with multi-starrers

The influence of pan-Indian films, the rise of OTT platforms, and upcoming releases featuring powerhouse casts highlight the evolving landscape of multi-starrers in the Tamil film industry

Gopinath Rajendran

When I caught the first-day show of *Captain Miller* earlier this year, a fellow member of the audience was surprised to know that the Dhanush film also starred actors like Shiva Rajkumar, Sundeep Kishan and Aditi Balan. It made me wonder about two things; that there are a select few who are lucky enough to catch a film without watching any of its promotional material and there seems to be an influx of multi-starrers from the Tamil film industry. Even if we don't consider *Ponniyin Selvan*, *Jailer*, *Leo* and *Vikram* in recent times, just within two months into 2024, apart from the Dhanush film, we also got *Blue Star* and *Lal Salaam* which featured multiple lead actors.

All the major Tamil actors are currently doing films featuring multiple stars. Before we get to what's going to unfold in the foreseeable future, let's look at how the concept of multi-starrers has evolved within the Tamil film industry over the years.

Multi-starrers is not a concept that's new to Tamil cinema. They were common but they were almost always restricted to films starring two leads which the industry likes to call 'double-hero subjects'. They were usually stories involving two friends (Sivaji Ganesan and Gemini Ganesan in *Parthal Pasi Theerum*, Muthuraman and Ravichandran in *Kadhalikka Neramillai*), brothers (MGR and Gemini Ganesan in *Muharasi*, Sivaji and Rajinikanth in *Padikkadavan*), enemies (Rajini and Kamal Haasan in *16 Vayathinile*, Karthik and Prabhu in *Agni Natchathiram*) or just strangers that introduced to each other by fate (Rajini and Kamal in *Apoorva Raagangal*, Sivaji and Vijay in *Once More*).

The legendary actors of Tamil cinema, MGR and Sivaji, have starred only in one film together, *Koondukkili* (1954) and Vijay and Ajith, considered the duumvirate of the current generation, have also acted together in just a film, *Rajavin Parvaiyile* (1995). Incidentally, both these films were average grossers.

The age between these two generations where Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth turned from actors to stars saw both of them collaborating for a slew of films like *Moondru Mudichu*, *Avargal* and *Ninaithale Inikkum*. Very rarely, there were films starring multiple lead actors, like *Pazhani* (1965) which starred Sivaji alongside S. S. Rajendran and Muthuraman.

And, a discourse on Tamil multi-starrers cannot be complete without Sivaji's *Bharatha Vilas* (1973), a film on religious unity, secularism, and brotherhood which, in a meta manner, included actors from other industries such as Akkineni Nageswara Rao (from the Telugu film industry), Sanjeev Kumar (Hindi), Madhu (Malayalam) and Rajkumar (Kannada).

A still from *Caption Miller.*

Dual-leads

Dual-lead films have been a long-standing trope in Tamil cinema and it would not be an overstatement to say that it peaked in the 90s when almost all the lead actors were coming up with different permutations and combinations to team up together for a flick. The buddy-cop genre that worked wonders for Hollywood opened a new avenue for such dual-hero films featuring similar characters with a common conflict, like *Kuruthipunal* (Kamal and Arjun), *Thalapathi* (Rajini and Mammootty), *Duet* (Prabhu and Ramesh Aravind), *Sivasakthi* (Sathyaraj and Prabhu), *Kadhala Kadhala* (Kamal and Prabhu Deva) and *Kalloori Vaasal* (Ajith and Prashanth). Then there was the 'frenemies' trope which featured a common plot involving two innately different people putting their differences away and coming together for a common goal; such as *Ullasam* (Ajith and Vikram) and *Nerrukku Ner* (Vijay and Surya). While we are at it, *Thevar Magan*, starring Kamal Haasan and Sivaji Ganesan came out in 1992 and what's going to top that collaboration?

Multi-starrers featuring multiple actors turned from star-lead vehicles to comparatively small-budget family flicks starring a host of primary characters instead of the traditional "hero". If the boundaries of this genre were pushed by filmmakers in the black-and-white era like A Bhimsingh, C.V. Sridhar and A.P. Nagarajan and the transitioning era like K. Balachander, it was directors like Visu who took the baton forward. His films in the 80s like *Dowry Kalyanam*, *Chidambara Rahasiyam*, *Samsaram Adhu Minsaram*, and *Thirumathi Oru Vegumathi* featured a star-studded cast. While he continued the trope in the 90s as well, the decade also saw directors like V. Sekhar dishing out multi-starrers like *Varavu Ettana Selavu Pathana*, *Kaalam Maari Pochu*, *Pongalo Pongal*, *Viralukketha Veekkam* and *Koodi Vazhnthal Kodi Nanmai*. The 2000s saw directors like K.S. Ravikumar (*Thenali*, *Samudhiram*, *Panchathantiram* and *Manmadhan Ambu*) and Sundar. C (*Ullam Kollai Poguthae*, *Anbe Sivam*, *Kalakalappu* and *Aranmanai* films) taking the trend forward.

It's also when the number of female stars matched that of their male counterparts which later paved the way for women-fronted multi-starrers like *Three Roses* and *Snegithiye*. If it was *Bharatha Vilas* for the previous generation, it has to be *Suyamvaram* (1999) for the current one.

Featuring 14 major directors, 19 cinematographers and over 30 leading actors, the film holds the Guinness World Record for casting the most stars in a film as well as being the quickest-ever feature-length film made, with filming being completed in 23 hours and 58 minutes.

If there's one filmmaker who has been making multi-starrers for decades, it's Mani Ratnam. The veteran made *Agni Natchathiram* in the 80s, *Thalapathi*, *Thiruda Thiruda* and *Iruvar* in the 90s, *Aayutha Ezhuthu* in the 2000s, Raavanan, *Kadal* and *Chekka Chivantha Vaanam* for the 2010s and the two *Ponniyin Selvan* films in the 2020s. And did we mention the grand ensemble cast of his upcoming film *Thug Life*?

Evolving landscape

The dawn of the new millennium saw two big multi-starrers. Talents like Ajith, Mammootty, Tabu and Aishwarya Rai teamed up for the beautiful *Kandukondain Kandukondain*. On the other end of the spectrum, arguably Kamal Haasan's biggest directorial, *Hey Ram*, starring himself alongside Shah Rukh Khan, Hema Malini, Rani Mukerji, Vasundhara Das, Naseeruddin Shah and Om Puri, was released.

The veteran followed up on the format with the evergreen comedy *Panchatanthiram* in 2002.

The next two decades did not see a decline in dual-lead-led films; examples include *Avan Ivan*, *Mankatha*, *Aarambam*, *Thani Oruvan*, *Vikram Vedha* and *Master*. But the true blue multi-starrers saw a major drop in these years with very few films like *Dasavathaaram*, *Nanban*, *Mersal*, *Chekka Chivantha Vaanam* and *Super Deluxe* ending up having an array of stars in their cast list.

It was in the late 2010s that the two *Baahubali* films changed the landscape of the entire Indian film industry. Apart from highlighting the saleability of universal yet rooted stories, what it positively impacted the most was the casting in such films which included roping in actors from different industries to cater to a wider audience. Today, these films are collectively categorised under an umbrella term – pan-Indian films. Though films like *KGF* and *Kantara* have proved that such an ensemble is not necessary for a film to go pan-Indian, most of the films tagged as so sport a diverse collection of talents from across the country.

Though the Tamil film industry made a pan-Indian film back in 1948 in the form of *Chandralekha*, it's safe to say that the industry took the new-wave pan-India plunge with Rajini's *2.0* in 2018 which saw Akshay Kumar making his Tamil debut. The very next year, Rajini's next film – *Petta* – found a villain in another Bollywood star, Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

Going with the trend

In due course, comparatively smaller films are also tapping into this trend and examples include *Enemy*, *Mark Antony*, *Maamannan*, *Por Thozhil*, *Maanaadu* and Thiruchitrambalam. The rise of OTT originals and anthologies has also made it easier for writers, filmmakers and stars to team up for a project and yet have their own unique space. *Modern Love Chennai*, *Putham Pudhu Kaalai*, *Mathagam*, *Suzhal: The Vortex* and *Vadhandhi: The Fable of Velonie* are recent examples.

Coming back to theatrical releases, there's a slew of biggies slated to be out this year which are going to have an ensemble cast. Alongside are also films like Vikram's *Thangalaan* and the long-awaited *Dhruva Natchathiram*, *Mr X* starring Arya, Gautham Karthik, Sarath Kumar, Manju Warrier and Anagha, Dhanush's second directorial *Rayaan* which stars him alongside Kalidas Jayaram, Sundeep Kishan, Selvaraghavan and S.J Suryah.

On the top league, we have Vijay's *The Greatest of All Time* which stars Prashanth, Prabhu Deva, Sneha and Laila while Ajith's *Vidaa Muyarchi* features a cast that includes Arjun, Arav and Regina Cassandra apart from Trisha. Rajinikanth's *Vettaiyan* has an ensemble cast that includes Amitabh Bachchan, Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Manju Warrier, Ritika Singh and Dushara Vijayan while Kamal Haasan's *Indian 2* also stars S.J. Suryah, Kajal Aggarwal, Siddharth, Rakul Preet Singh and Priya Bhavani Shankar.

Probably the biggest one yet has to be Kamal's films with Mani Ratnam's *Thug Life* as its cast list includes Jayam Ravi, Trisha, Dulquer Salmaan, Gautham Karthik, Joju George and Aishwarya Lekshmi.

It's fascinating to see how the very meaning of multi-starrers has changed as the film industry evolved in the last few decades. From it being synonymous with a film having multiple protagonists with near-equal weightage and screen time, it now means that a film has an ensemble cast and these actors' characters and screen time necessarily don't have to be on par with the protagonist which is almost always one star. While whether the new wave of such multi-starrers rightfully deserves that tag is a debate for another day, there's not an iota of doubt that it's great to see an array of talents light up the screen and from the looks of it, we are going to have more.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

MR. P. N. Chezyan, S. A. College, Palayamkottai, wants to know the difference between 'calm' and 'tranquil.'

'Calm' means the absence of any disturbance, physical or mental. A calm sea, a calm air.

There was a calm before the storm.

'Tranquil' also means 'calm,' but it is a settled composure, quiet. It denotes an inherent quiet with no suggestion of previous agitation.

It is a tranquil village.

Mr. K.V.S. Bhaskar, Kothapeta, Kurnool, wants to know the difference between 'wilful' and 'willing.'

'Willing' means 'ready.'

A willing worker is one who gladly works without any goading.

'Wilful' means 'showing a strong unreasonable determination to do what one wants to do.'

It is because of his wilful neglect that the family came to grief.

Mr. K. R. Rangaswamy, Madras, writes: 'I would like to know how the expression 'poetic justice' originated. Many of the judgments delivered by our honourable judges seem to be more prosaic than poetic. When does a judgment become poetic?.'

Poetic justice does not mean judgment written in a poetic style. 'Poetic justice' is a term used in literature when in a play, novel, etc., the wicked are punished and the virtuous are rewarded. From this, we get the general meaning 'well-deserved punishment or reward.'

Mr. V. Ramanan, Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning of 'The last straw on the camel's back.'

It means 'additional event, act, task, etc. that makes a situation finally intolerable.' The last straw is the last thing in a series of cumulative irritations and unpleasant things. When a camel is carrying a very heavy load, even a small additional load will make the load too heavy for it. A straw has practically no weight, but when it is added to a heavy load of straws, the weight may become unbearable for the camel.

The failure of his daughter's marriage was the last straw for him.

The idiom is the last straw that broke the camel's back. Very often, we leave out 'that broke the camel.'

Mr. Dhirendra Sharma, New Delhi, writes: "Recently, I noticed that almost all western media and a few Indian newspapers when referring to the President of Iraq, do not use Mr. or President. Even the British Prime Minister John Major and the U.S. President George Bush in their official speeches before their respective legislatures referred to the Iraqi head of the State as 'Saddam Hussein.' Does this connote a systematic way of generating hatred/disrespect towards the person whom one wants to project as 'enemy' and 'evil'?"

Yes, sir. To hate enemies is human; to love them is divine. Each one expresses hatred in their own way. Winston Churchill had so much hatred for the Nazis that he refused to pronounce the word 'Nazi' correctly. 'Nazi' is pronounced 'naatsi.' He pronounced it 'naazi.' He knew the correct pronunciation but treated it with the same disdain as he did the Nazis. Some express their hatred for another person by dropping titles like Mr. in their speeches even on formal occasions. I'd like to have the views of the readers on this.

Published in The Hindu on March 19, 1991

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on George Frideric Handel, one of the most famous Baroque composers, who was born on February 23, 1685

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What was Handel's original nationality and in which country did he become a naturalised subject in 1727?

QUESTION 2
Which famous 1717 composition often published as three suites was in response to King George I's request for a concert on the River Thames?

QUESTION 3
Which equally legendary composer, an admirer of Handel's works, is said to have remarked "Handel is the greatest composer that ever lived … I would uncover my head and kneel down on his tomb."?

QUESTION 4
Which famous oratorio, usually associated with Christmas, was actually intended for performance during Lent and premiered in April 1742?

QUESTION 5
Continuing with the above question, several lines from which book of the New Testament feature in the famous 'Hallelujah' chorus?

QUESTION 6
If Mozart's works are prefixed with 'K' (for Kochel Catalogue), what three letters are nowadays used to number Handel's works?

QUESTION 7
Handel was buried in a specific part of Westminster Abbey alongside many creative geniuses. What is this section called?

Visual question: According to Handel scholars, the theme for this sporting competition, composed by Tony Britten, is adapted from which of his works?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. In the 20th century, several communist states were established. Name the first one. **Ans: Russia**
2. This revolutionary wave of liberal democracy movements resulted in the collapse of most Marxist–Leninist governments. What is it called? In which year did this happen? **Ans: Revolutions of 1989/Fall of Communism, happened in 1989**
3. Presently, there are five communist states in the world. Name them. **Ans: China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cuba**
4. This term relates to a strategy whereby the politically advanced sections of the working class form organisations to advance the objectives of communism. **Ans: Vanguardism**
5. This political reform movement is often argued to be a significant cause of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. **Ans: Perestroika**

Visual: This picture shows a protest rally from 1989. Name this movement. **Ans: Velvet Revolution**

Early Birds: Prashant nain | Raj Mohan V | Princi Verma | Sunil Kannada | Kamaldeep Kaur | Muhammed Shahid Suri | Lt. Cdr Visakh

Word of the day

Debase:
reduce something in quality or value, corrupt morally

Synonyms: degrade, demean, cheapen

Usage: *The word has been debased in recent years.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/debasepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /dɪbéjsd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BMTC turns a bus into mobile canteen to serve food

The bus had covered a distance of 10,64,298 km before the vehicle was converted into a mobile canteen. The initiative was taken by four employees in the depot

The mobile canteen is expected to be stationed at the Peenya and Yeshwantpur depots in Bengaluru.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Instead of ferrying passengers from one point to another, this Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus now dishes out food to the staff in the depots through a mobile canteen made out of a scrapped bus. This unique initiative is the result of the efforts of a group of BMTC employees who transformed a scrapped bus into a mobile canteen for their colleagues and gave it a new lease of life. The mobile canteen is expected to be stationed at the Peenya and Yeshwantpur depots.

According to a BMTC official, the bus had covered a distance of 10,64,298 kilometres before the vehicle was converted into a mobile canteen.

The initiative was taken by four employees in the depot. The refurbishment was carried out in accordance with the directive of the managing director of BMTC.

"The transformed vehicle will serve as a canteen for breakfast and lunch at various locations, including units and bus stops where canteen facilities are not available," an official said.

Managing Director Ramachandran R. recently inspected the new food cart, which comes with a tag line – Come, sit, and have dinner. He commended the technical staff for their skills, and encouraged the staff to continue making such pioneering efforts.

The mobile canteen has several features to enhance the dining experience for BMTC staff. "Among these features are seating and table arrangement, a fan to ensure comfort, and a convenient wash basin. Additionally, the canteen is equipped with a reliable drinking water system. The ventilation and lighting systems have been carefully designed, including a glass window on the roof to provide natural illumination and ventilation," an official explained.

HC imposes cost of ₹1 lakh on KEA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh on the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) for illegally cancelling a post-graduate medical seat allotted under in-service category to a doctor working in Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda passed the order while allowing a petition filed by 32-year-old Dr. Rajesh Kumar D., an assistant surgeon in Jayadeva institute.

The petitioner, after qualifying in NEET-PG, 2021, was on February 2, 2022, allotted a seat in MD Respiratory Medicine course in Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Respiratory and Chest Diseases, Bengaluru, under Scheduled Caste quota reserved for in-service doctors working in autonomous medical institutions in the post-graduate medical courses.

Intimated through WhatsApp

Later, the KEA cancelled the seat by sending a letter, written by the Director of Medical Education (DME) to KEA on February 23, 2022, to cancel the seat allotted to the petitioner for want of proper no objection certificate from Jayadeva institute, through WhatsApp on March 2, 2022.

The Bench found that both the DME and the KEA acted strangely by ordering cancellation of allotted seat to the petitioner without issuing notice to him by merely acting on a letter written by another aspiring candidate, Dr. Pradeep Naik G, to whom the cancelled seat was allotted later.

IISc scientists develop synthetic antibody to neutralise deadly snakebite toxin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) in Bengaluru have developed a synthetic human antibody that can neutralise a potent neurotoxin produced by the Elapidae family of highly toxic snakes, which includes the cobra, king cobra, krait and black mamba.

A file photo of a Blue Krait.

According to IISc., the team adopted an approach used earlier to screen antibodies against HIV and COVID-19 in order to synthesise the new venom-neutralising antibody. "This is the first time that this particular strategy is being applied to develop antibodies for snakebite treatment," said Senji Laxme R.R., PhD student at Scripps Research Institute and the Evolutionary Venomics Lab (EVL), and co-first author of the study published in *Science Translational Medicine*.

Closer to universal solution

Researchers say that this development takes us one step closer to a universal antibody solution that can offer broad protection against a variety of snake venom.

Snakebites cause thousands of deaths every year, especially in India and sub-Saharan Africa. The current strategy for developing anti-venom involves injecting snake venom into equines like horses, ponies and mules, and collecting antibodies from their blood.

But there are several problems.

"These animals get exposed to various bacteria and viruses during their lifetime. As a result, anti-venom also includes antibodies against microorganisms, which are therapeutically redundant. Research has shown that less than 10% of a vial of antivenom actually contains antibodies that are targeted towards snake venom toxins," said Kartik Sunagar, Associate Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences and joint corresponding author of the study.

The antibody developed by the team targets a conserved region found in the core of a major toxin called the three-finger toxin (3FTx) in the elapid venom. Although different species of elapids produce different 3FTxs, a handful of regions in the protein are similar. The team zeroed in on one such conserved region - a disulphide core. They designed a large library of artificial antibodies from humans, which were displayed on yeast cell surfaces. They then tested the antibodies' ability to bind to 3FTxs from various elapid snakes around the world.

After repeated screening, they narrowed down their choice to one antibody that could bind strongly to various 3FTxs. Among the 149 variants of 3FTxs in public repositories, this antibody could bind with 99.

Tests on animal models

The researchers then tested their antibody on animal models. In one set of experiments, they premixed the synthetic antibody with a toxic 3FTx produced by the Taiwanese banded krait, and injected it into mice. Mice given just the toxin died within four hours. But those given the toxin-antibody mix survived past the 24-hour observation window, and looked completely healthy.

The team also tested their antibody against the whole venom of the monocled cobra from eastern India and the black mamba from sub-Saharan Africa, and found similar results. The efficacy of the antibody was found to be nearly 15 times that of the conventional product.

Crucially, when they first injected the venom and then gave the antibody after a time delay - 0 minutes, 10 minutes and 20 minutes - the antibody was still able to save the mice.

The conventional product, however, only worked well when injected alongside the venom. A delay of even 10 minutes significantly reduced the potency of the conventional antivenom.

₹1 crore grant to lantana handicraft artisans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has announced a grant of ₹1 crore to encourage the tribal artisans who carve out elephants, bison, furniture and decorative items from Lantana Camara, an invasive weed species.

Life-size models

Unveiling life-size models of bison and elephant made of lantana sticks at Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Thursday, Mr. Khandre said that the thorny lantana is widespread in forest areas of Bandipur, Nagarhole, BR Hills, and due to this herbivorous animals such as elephants, deer etc., are deprived of grass.

He said that there is a need to get rid of the weed and the tribal communities can help in its removal by making decorative items from it which will not only provide them livelihood but also saving the forest and herbivorous animals.

'Create publicity'

The Minister also directed Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Kumar Pushkar to explore ways to create publicity for furniture, decorative items and wildlife figurines made from lantana not only across the country but also abroad.

He said steps should be taken to create a platform for online sale of these products.

Six dead, four injured in accident in Belagavi district

The Hindu
BELAGAVI

Six persons died and four were injured in a road accident in Mangyanakoppa village near Khanapur in Belagavi district on Thursday. The car registered in Maharashtra was going from Kittur to Gullalli village for a marriage. It hit a tree and was mangled.

The dead are Sharukh Pendhari, the driver, aged about 30, Iqbal Jamadar, 50, Sania Langoti, 37, Umra Bestrictgum Langoti, 17, Shabanam Langoti, 37, and Faran Langoti, 13. The injured are Farath Betageri, 18, Sofia Langoti 22, Sania Iqbal Jamadar, 36, and Mahin Langoti, 7. The injured have been admitted to the hospital. A case has been registered in Nandagad police station. The police said the 10 people were travelling in a compact sedan car.

Tel/Fax-06852-250740; e-mail - eephkrp@nic.in; eephkrp@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, KORAPUT
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" procurement Notice
e-procurement Notice for 2023-24
Bid Identification No.SE,P.H.KPT-13 of 2023-24 Dt.15.02.2024

1.	No. of the works	: 1 no
2.	Estimated Cost	: Rs. 603.03 lakh (Approx.)
3.	Period of completion	: 9 months
4.	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of 23.02.2024 to 05.00 P.M. of 06.03.2024
5.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 05.00 P.M. of 06.03.2024
6.	Date & time of opening of bids	: 11.00 A.M. of 07.03.2024
7.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Koraput

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"
(Er. Chiranjibi Mahali),
Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division Koraput.
C-1810: OIPR-13008/11/0021/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com
E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.35 of 2023-24
No.776 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 22nd February-2024
The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for five number works to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5.00 P.M. of 23.02.2024 to 5.00 P.M of 11.03.2024**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **11.00 A.M. of 12.03.2024** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Sd/- Er. P.K.Mohanty
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.
B-1816: OIPR-34156/11/0027/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com
E-procurement Short Tender Call Notice No.34 of 2023-24
No.757 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 21st February-2024
The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5.00 P.M. of 23.02.2024 to 3.00 P.M of 04.03.2024**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **5.00 P.M. of 04.03.2024** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Sd/- Er. P.K.Mohanty
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.
B-1820: OIPR-34156/11/0026/2324

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel. - (0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No- B-I-SD&TE-ITI-20/2024 Lr. No.- 7703 Dt. 17th Feb. 2023
Invitation For Bids
Bid Identification No. C.E. (Civil) - 66 / 2023-24

1.	The Chief Engineer (Civil), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works **"Construction of different new Buildings such as 100 Seated Boys Hostel (G+1) & Head Room, 50 Seated Girls Hostel (GF) & Head Room and Principal Quarter GF & E-type Quarter (FF & SF) with Head Room at I.T.I. Karanjia in Mayurbhanj District" amounting to Rs.11,41,13,000/- (Approximate)** as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Work
3.	No. of work	:	01 No.
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹.10,000/- (Each)
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'A' / Special Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.22.02.2024 to 17:00 Hours of dt.07.03.2024.
7.	Date of Opening of Bids	:	Dt. 11.03.2024 at 11:30 AM
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Chief Engineer, (Civil), Odisha, Bhubaneswar
B-1809: OIPR-34117/11/0116/2324

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No:CE&CGM(Tech)/BSWML/TEND/10/2023-24 Date:22.02.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

1. The Grants have been Provide under Shubra Bengaluru Grant for the following works and accordingly action plan for the same has been approved,In this regard The Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit bids for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 as per KW-4 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
4. GST will be paid separately.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Approx. Amount put to Bid (Rs. in lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD
1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning And O&M Of Shredders And Chopper Along With Infrastructure At Selected Locations In BBMP	1420.84	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.14,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on 28.02.2024 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours of 04.03.2024. The Technical bid will be opened through kpp-portal only on 05.03.2024 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue, Through kpp-portal in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend the opening process, If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the bids, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The bidders is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the bids. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech)
BSWML
DIPR/CP/3818/2023-24

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No:CE&CGM(Tech)/BSWML/TEND/09/2023-24 Date:22.02.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

1. The BBMP in its approved budget of 2023-24, has approved to transfer the grants to BSWML in respect of Solid Waste Management works to BSWML. Accordingly, in the Board meeting of BSWML the action plan for works to be taken up for the said grants has been approved.
2. In this regard The Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit bids for works given in the table below through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://KPP.karnataka.gov.in) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause-3 as per KW-4 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
3. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
5. GST will be paid separately.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Approx. Amount put to Bid (Rs. in lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD
1	Protection of SWM site with boundary wall construction at Kogilu Sy.No.99 and Other such places.	839.80	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.11,60,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank

1. Pre bid meeting will be held 28.02.2024 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours of 04.03.2024. The Technical bid will be opened through kpp-portal only on 05.03.2024 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue. through kpp-portal in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend the opening process. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue through KPP portal.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the bids, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The bidders are required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the bids. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech)
BSWML
DIPR/CP/3817/2023-24

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No:CE&CGM(Tech)/BSWML/TEND/08/2023-24 Date:22.02.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

1. The Grants have been Provided under 15th Finance Commission for the works mentioned in the table below and accordingly action plan for the same has been approved by the Government.
2. In this regard, The Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit bids for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause-3 as per KW-4 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
3. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
5. GST shall be paid separately.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Approx. Amount put to Bid (Rs. in lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD
1	Creation of system for Collection and transportation of Construction and Demolition waste (C& D waste) from primary generation point up to the processing facility.	1672.39	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.15,72,390/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.
2	Providing fire fighting equipments in the DWCC to reduce the fire hazard caused (CALL-2)	375.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under one of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.4,62,500/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
3	Conducting Survey of Waste Generator (BlockMapping) and Conducting Digital Mapping along with State of SWM Study with recommendations for all 198 wards. 1) Procurement of Software for conducting above study. 2) Hiring of IT field staffs for survey 3)Conducting State of SWM Study (CALL-2)	369.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.4,53,500/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.
4	Turn Key, Lump Sum, Fixed price, no variation Tender based on Tenderer's Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Transfer Stations having Closed Compaction system for handling minimum 150 TPD of Municipal Solid Waste at Selected locations under BBMP jurisdiction. (CALL-2)	4036.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under one of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.39,36,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on 28.02.2024 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours of 04.03.2024. The Technical bid will be opened through kpp-portal only on 05.03.2024 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue. through kpp-portal in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend the opening process. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the bids, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The bidders is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the bids. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech)
BSWML
DIPR/CP/3816/2023-24

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

ಯುವ ಸಮೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ
ಬೃಹತ್ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮೇಳ
2024

KARNATAKA SKILL CONNECT PORTAL

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department (SDEL)

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (K.S.D.C).

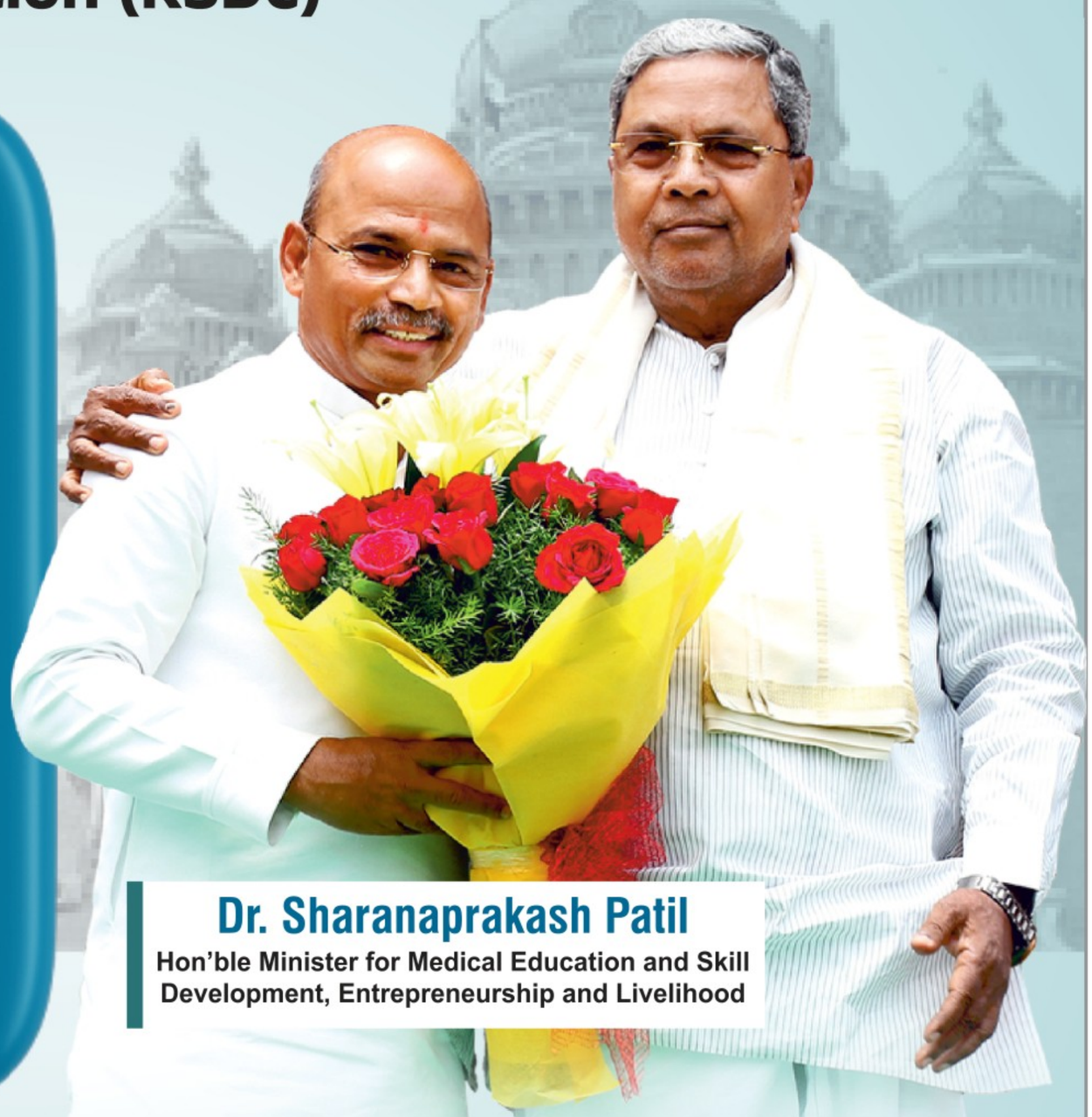
Exciting Opportunities Awaits!

Join us at the State Level Mega Udyoga Mela 2024, organized by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC)

YUVA SAMRUDDHI SAMMELANA

MEGA UDYOGA MELA 2024

BENGALURU



Dr. Sharanaprakash Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood

Date:
26 & 27 February 2024

Venue:
Paddock Ground, Behind Bengaluru Palace,
Bengaluru -560052

Welcome Job Aspirants from various Educational Qualifications

For Job Aspirants

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Step 1 Visit to https://skillconnect.kaushalkar.com/
Step 2 Click on Register
Step 3 Click on Udyoga Mela Registration
Step 4 Click on Candidate Registration
Step 5 Fill the form & Submit

For Employers

Steps for Registration

Step 1 Visit to https://skillconnect.kaushalkar.com/
Step 2 Click on Register
Step 3 Click on Udyoga Mela Registration
Step 4 Click on Employer Registration
Step 5 Fill the form & Submit

HELPLINE NO:
1800 599 9918 (Extension : 4)

Follow us on

INBRIEF

RUAS, Illinois varsity introduce comprehensive courses

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), in collaboration with University of Illinois, on Thursday announced the introduction of comprehensive courses aimed at nurturing skill development in cutting-edge fields of Engineering Sciences. These fields include Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, energy conservation, and other related areas. Addressing a press meet at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences to mark this collaborative event, Timothy Killeen, President of the University of Illinois System, emphasised the significance of researching deeper into the collaborative relationship, aiming for long-term and impactful partnerships. Dr. Killeen highlighted the University of Illinois System's commitment in raising long-term collaborative initiatives for mutual growth and innovation with Ramaiah University. In his address, Dr. M.R Jayaram, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation and Chancellor, RUAS, highlighted the partnership between the University of Illinois and RUAS in fostering knowledge exchange between two prominent academic institutions. Dr. Jayaram emphasised the significant progress made over the past six years, noting the quicker growth and scale of collaboration.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated February 23, we have a story on Raj Bhagat Palanichamy, Senior Programme Manager, Geo Analytics for Sustainable Cities & Transport program at WRI, who reiterated the importance of considering the city's topography in its planning, while pointing out how this aspect was completely ignored while Bengaluru grew haphazardly from the 1990s.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 23, Friday), the following articles are available:

- EU mulls sweeping forced labour **bit.ly/euforcedlabour**
- The women of ASHA: overworked, underpaid and on the edge of breakdown **bit.ly/ashaworkersstir**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Mahamastakabhisheka celebrations begin in DK

Nine-day event began with family members of Padmaprasad Ajila, head of the former princely family from Aladangady that erected the Bahubali statue, performing 108 'kalashabhishekas'

Devotees performing chandana abhisheka, turmeric abhisheka, and kalka choorna abhisheka to Bahubali at Venur. H.S. MANJUNATH

The Hindu Bureau
VENUR (DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT)

As the sun set and the moon appeared in the sky, the 35-ft. monolithic statue of Bahubali Swamy at Venur in Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada was seen in vivid colours with water, milk, and sandalwood paste being poured and flower petals being showered.

The nine-day mahamastakabisheka to Bahubali Swamy atop Bahubali Betta, and on the banks of Phalguni, began at 7 p.m. on Thursday with family members of Padmaprasad Ajila, the head of the Ajila princely family from Aladangady that erected the statue, performing 108 'kalashabhishekas' (pouring water filled in kalash). This was preceded by the Ajila family members and other devotees taking part in the 'agrodaga' procession from the Kallu Basadi to Bahubali Betta. Following the 'kalashabhisheka', the Ajila family members poured tender coconut, followed by sugarcane juice, different cereals, 'kalakachoorna', sandalwood paste, Kashmiri saffron, and rice flour. Lastly they showered flower petals.

The devotees who participated in the mahamatakabhisheka celebrations at Venur on Thursday. H.S. MANJUNATH

The mahamastakabhisheka went on till around 11 p.m.

The rituals were held under the guidance of Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Panditha acharyavarya, the seer of Jain mutt in Moodbidri and in the presence of Jain munis Amoghakeerti Maharaj and Amarakeerti Maharaj.

Pattadhikari of Shri Kshetra Dharmastala D. Veerendra Heggade presided over the event.

New biotechnology policy to focus on fiscal incentives for start-ups

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The fiscal incentive uptake in Karnataka has been minimal and the Department would look at how to improve on the uptake for the biotechnology sector by focusing on curating a policy that facilitates better fiscal incentives to boost the growth of the sector, said Ekroop Caur, Secretary, Department of E, IT & BT here on Thursday.

She said the Biotechnology Vision Group was keen on scaling up biotech start-ups which would be made possible with incentives that are milestone-based, time-based interest subsidies and many other incentives to support such companies.

Members of the Vision Group shared insights on improving fiscal incentives for biotech companies, including better interest subsidies and top-up subsidies. They also emphasised the importance of prioritiing technology transfer and collaborating with central government regulatory authorities to expedite approvals for start-ups in the areas of BT, microbiology, biotransformation, bioenergy, and rare diseases sectors.

Karnataka's Biotech Policy 4.0 would be a forward-looking one and it would also trigger a national policy for Biotechnology, said Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairperson, Biotechnology Vision Group.

Speaking at the 61st Meeting of the Vision Group on Biotechnology, Shaw said Karnataka has been a frontrunner in shaping biotech policies that were forward-looking, far-reaching and addressed emerging opportunities, advanced education as well as industrial advancement.

The new policy was expected to play a crucial role in bringing growth and shaping the future of biotechnology in Karnataka, she added. "BT will emerge as a strong thrust area for economic development in the State," Ms. Shaw anticipated.

Annual sports event held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Siddaganga Public School, Chandra Layout, celebrated its annual sports day on February 17. Events were conducted for students and parents. School principal Hamsa T.M. presented the annual report and highlighted the achievements of the school and students. Dance performances on Mahabharata and Ramayana were held. S. Sacchidanand, former V-C, RGUHS, Bengaluru, and executive director of Siddaganga Medical College and Research Institute, Tumakuru, was the chief guest.

KARNATAKA RELIGIOUS & LINGUISTIC MINORITY PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES ASSOCIATION (Regd.)(KRLMPCA)

Flat No.143, 4th Floor, "SURYAMUKHI" Garden Apartments
#21, Vittal Malya Road, Bangalore-560 001. Ph: 080-4112 1233
Email: info@kmca.info

Online Application forms are invited from eligible candidates for admission to BE Courses in the Member colleges of the Association for the academic year 2024-25. The test will be held on **19.05.2024** at Bangalore, Tumkur, Mangalore and Gulbarga. Intending candidates may visit the website of the Association **www.kmca.info** for details of the test and seat selection process. Online Application may be downloaded from the Association's website only, with effect from **06.03.2024.**

Sd/- President | Sd/- Secretary

www.kmca.info

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD

Jal bhavan, 5th floor, No:5, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029. Ph No: 080-41106507 Email: cekwbbng@gmail.com, Website:https://kuwsdb.karnataka.gov.in

IFT No: KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT167

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Name of the work: **"Providing Improvements of Water Supply System to Jigani, Anekal, Doddaballapura and Hoskote under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) mode" amounting to Rs.106.95 Crores.**

Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER,
KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3803/23-24

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1,2,3/SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION: 17/2023-24 DATE:20-02-2024

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.-1 & 4 (TWO COVER SISTEM)

Item rate tender in Two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-III & Above contractors registered in KPWD (KW2 & KW4) (Minimum amount put to Tender-Rs-38.27 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs-300.00 Lakhs)for the 07 works through e-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from KPPP-Portal website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21-02-2024 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tende29-02-2024 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 01-03-2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 02-03-2024 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 04-03-2024 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPPP-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPPP-Portal help desk No+91-8046010000+91-8068948777 & support@eprochelpdesk.com

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/602/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI, Chitradurga

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR
Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -(KW- 2, 3 & 4)

THESE WORKS ARE GENARAL SC & ST CONTRACTORS

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2023-24/3903 Date: 16-02-2024 2) Name of work's: Raichur District Total 14 work's Raichur, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings & Road Maintainance works. 3) Amount of works: Min Rs. 3504083.19 Max Rs. 16797381.65 4) EMD Amount : Min Rs. 35100.00 Max Rs. 252000.00 5) Period (including Manson) : Min 3 (Three) Months Max 9 (Nine) Months 6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender 28/02/2024 16:00:00 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: 29/02/2024 16:30:00 For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/RCR/525/KSMC&A/Job No.522/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ವೇಕ್ಷಣಾ ಘಟಕ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು–570010.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821–2971847/2529205/2441988
E-Mail Id: dsomysuru@gmail.com/ dhomysore@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಡಿ.ಎಸ್.ಯು/ಸಿಪಿಹೆಚ್‌ಸಿ–ಯುಹೆಚ್‌ಸಿ/ಮೈ/97/2023–24 ದಿ: 21.02.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ (UHC) ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 396 ಉಪಕೇಂದ್ರ – ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ಷೇಮ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ A1 & A2 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲಕರಣೆಗಳು/ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಡಿ.ಎಸ್.ಯು/ಸಿಪಿಹೆಚ್‌ಸಿ–ಯುಹೆಚ್‌ಸಿ/ಮೈ/20/2023–24 ದಿ: 06.02.2024. **ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊಬಲಗು** ರೂ.65,87,666/– ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.1,31,753/–

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ ರೂ. 65,87,666=00 ಲಕ್ಷ **2)** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ **ಮೊಬಲಗು** (2%) ರೂ.1,31,753=00 **3) ಭದ್ರತಾ ಠೇವಣಿ** (3%) ರೂ.1,97,630=00 **4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ** ದಿ: 21.02.2024 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 03:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ **5) ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ** ದಿ: 23.02.2024 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **6) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ** ದಿ: 28.02.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ** ದಿ: 29.02.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 05:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **8) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ** ದಿ: 02.03.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 05:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **9)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು–10 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ವೇಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು/ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1139/2023-24

University of Agricultural Sciences
Estate Office, GKVK, Bangalore – 560065

No. EO/TN/517/2023-24 Date:20.2.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW1 from the registered KPWD / PWD / Contractors for the work of Shifting of Seed Processing Machines & Equipments from KVK, Konehalli, Tiptur Tq and re-assembling with alignment at OFRS, Naganahalli, Mysore Dist **(Call-2).** The details of the Notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **26.02.2024 at 10.30 AM.** The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for uploading is **28.02.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **01.03.2024 at 10.30 A.M**. The Financial Bid will be opened on **04.03.2024 at 10.30 A.M.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at support@eprochelpdesk.com or **8046010000 / 8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765.

DIPR/CP/JA/3794/2023-24 **Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-2/23-24/F-50/8499-506 Date:22.02.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bids against this office **TENDER INDENT No: 1)Bid enquiry no.:** KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT 562/Call-2 **2)**Bid enquiry no.: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT555/Call-2 **3)**Bid enquiry no.: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT556/Call-2 **4)**Bid enquiry no.: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT716 for **(1)** Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11KV transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV transformer without switchgears at **110KV Ugar S/S** in Kagwad taluk, Belagavi district. **(2)** Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11KV transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV transformer without switchgears at **110KV Hukkeri S/S** in Hukkeri taluk, Belagavi district. **(3)** Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11KV transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV transformer without switchgears at **110KV Kagawad S/S** in Kagawad taluk, Belagavi district. **(4)** Replacement of 2X10MVA, 110/11KV transformer by 2X20MVA, 110/11KV transformer without switchgears at **110KV Udyambag S/S** in Belagavi taluk & district.

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04:00pm** on **23.02.2024.** other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec)., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Neharu Nagar, Belagavi-590010

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-3/23-24/5779-80 Date : 22.02.2024

Short-Term Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No. SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/23-24/GCW/02/CALL-2 for Providing 07Nos of 11kV Switchgears (MCVCB) at 66/11kV Ponnampet Substation, Kushalanagara Nodal Centre, TL&SS Division, Hootagalli, KPTCL, Mysuru on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/T(W&M)/EEE(O)/AE-3/MYS/23-24/ADDL-01/CALL-2 for Providing 1x12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer a Martalli 66/11kv Sub-station in Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagara District on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **23.02.2024**. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, El., Transmission(W&M)Circle, KPTCL, I Floor, 'Prasarana Bhavana', N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.

INDUSIND BANK LTD.
1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

E-AUCTION SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Sale of immovable asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken on by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. (the secured creditor). The Property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 27-03-2024** for recovery of **Rs.4,03,36,345.00 (Rupees Four Crore Three Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Three Hundred Forty Five Only) With further interest there onat the contractual rate and cost, expenses. as on 31.01.2024** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the **borrower M/s Nosh Foods Private Limited, Co-Borrowers/Guarantors: Mr. R H Sathiyanathan S/o Hanumantha, Mr. ShantaramNaik S/o Ganapati Naik, Mr. Narashimha Rao G S/o G Gundu Rao, Mrs. G Uma W/o G Gundu Rao, Mrs. Chitra M V, W/o Narashimha Rao**

Description of secured Asset : All that piece and parcel of Property bearing site No. 1121/1, Khata No. 440/443/92/112/1, formed in "RakshaNikunj Annexe" Layout, in converted land bearing Survey No. 44/1, measuring 2 Acre 14 Guntas converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purposes vide official memorandum bearing No. ALN(NA) JALA/SR: 54/2007-08, dated: 12-12-2007 issued by special deputy commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and layout plan approved by BIAAPA Vide No. BIAAPA/TP/LAO/139/2007-08, dated: 12/03/2008, situated at Boyalahalli Village, JalaHobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 60-0 feet and North to South: 20-0 feet in all measuring 1200 Sq. ft. together with all the rights, appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and **bounded on:**East by: Road West by: Site No. 119North by: Remaining Site No. 112South by: Site No. 113

Reserve Price : Rs.51,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty One LakhsOnly) EMD : Rs.5,10,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Ten Thousandonly) Bid Increment : Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to the credit of "IndusInd Bank Ltd", Account No. 00083564604005

Mode of Auction	**E-AUCTON**
Inspection of Property	**08/03/2024 between 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.**

Contact Person and Phone No : Mr. Jansi Rao Mob. 9886090570, Mr. Chakradhari Shubham 9304376755 and Authorised Officer Mr.Varadaraj Mob: 9966078652 vardaraj.devaraj@indusind.com.

Last date for submission of Bids (E-auction) : **26/03/2024 up to 04:00 PM**

This publication is also a Thirty Days (30) notice to the aforementioned borrower/guarantors under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors Website i.e, **https://www.indusindbank.com,** regarding E-Auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the E –Auction. Bidders may also visit the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com.**

Place: Bangalore, Date: 19-02-2024 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited

Six wildlife sanctuaries to be recommended for being declared ecologically sensitive areas

The State Cabinet has also approved guidelines framed to decide compensation for those who give up land unable to continue farming due to man-animal conflict

Nagarahole Tiger Reserve is one of the six sanctuaries that have been proposed to be declared an ecologically sensitive area. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Cabinet is learnt to have approved a proposal to recommend to the Centre to declare six wildlife sanctuaries and areas around another sanctuary in Karnataka as ecologically sensitive zones.

The six sanctuaries that have been proposed are Bukkapattana Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamasandra Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagarahole and Kali Tiger Reserves, Kappatagudda, Anashi National Park and areas around Cauvery Extended Wildlife Sanctuary.

The proposal regarding recommending these areas

The proposal regarding recommending these areas to the Centre has been taken up as per the verdict of the Supreme Court and guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on February 9, 2011

to the Centre has been taken up as per the verdict of the Supreme Court and guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on February 9, 2011. The proposal had been finalised as per the recommendation of a Cabinet sub-committee which met on October 11, 2023, sources said.

On man-animal conflict

In another decision, the State Cabinet is also learnt to have approved the guidelines that have been framed to decide the quantum of compensation to be paid to those who give up their land to the Forest Department unable to continue with farming due to man-animal conflict or those who voluntarily give their land located in wildlife corridor to the government.

Forest Minister B. Eshwar Khandre proposed such guidelines prepared by his department to increase the forest cover and to reduce man-animal conflict by making way for the smooth movement of wild animals.

These guidelines prescribe different prices for the lands being given by people depending upon whether they are being provided by the forest dwellers located in the middle/border area of the forest or the wildlife corridor or holders of *patta* lands or farmers.

In tiger reserves

Citing the comprehensive guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in 2012, it has been proposed to provide a compensation of ₹15 lakh to each family that is presently residing in Tiger reserves but wants to rehabilitate outside.

Vijayendra meets Srinivas Prasad

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Speculation is rife over State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra's meeting Chamarajanagar MP V. Srinivas Prasad in Mysuru on Thursday. Though Mr. Vijayendra and Mr. Prasad described it as courtesy call, the meeting is said to assume significance over the intense lobbying for BJP ticket from two sons-in-law of Mr. Prasad.

Mr. Vijayendra said he calls on Mr. Prasad whenever he visits Mysuru.

"As he has already announced retirement from electoral politics, I sought suggestions from him on the candidates for the Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha constituency," he added. Mr. Prasad has repeatedly stated that he will retire from electoral politics which has led to other aspirants trying their luck.

THtalksBengaluru with KSEAB chairperson on February 26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to conduct three annual examinations for SSLC and II PU students from this year.

To clear any confusion or anxiety about the exam among students, *The Hindu* has organised THtalksBengaluru, an online interaction with N. Manjushree,chairperson, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), on February 26 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Log on to https://youtube.com/live/j3zBvr-ODCI?feature=share to chat with the chairperson live, or mail your questions to us at thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in

Manjushree

Star attraction

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan rehearsing ahead of the opening ceremony of the Women's Premier League 2024, at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Union Minister urges States to promote use of ethanol

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, has urged the State governments to promote the production and use of ethanol as an alternative fuel source as it would not only help save the environment, but also support farmers.

At a rally in Belagavi on Thursday, where he launched several roadworks, the Union Minister said India would not only use ethanol for its vehicles, but also become a global export powerhouse of ethanol.

"In the near future, we will see vehicles that are run by ethanol and methanol on our roads. It will help reduce environment pollution and increase the economic well being of farmers," he said.

"There are many opportunities for ethanol production and consumption in sugarcane producing areas like Bealgavi. Farmers should not see themselves only as suppliers of raw material to sugar industries, but also as energy producers as these factories will be able to produce ethanol and earn profits," Mr. Gadkari said.

"On the one hand, area under sugarcane crop has increased in Belagavi and other districts. On the other, the ethanol economy has grown exponentially. We should make use of this opportunity," he said.

With low awareness on EVs, charging stations are a few outside Bengaluru

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Karnataka recently took pride in the fact that it has the highest number of public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations (5,059) in India. However, the distribution of these stations is far from equal. While Bengaluru Urban district has 4,281 and Bengaluru Rural district has 192 EV charging stations, no other district has even crossed the 100-mark.

Bengaluru is followed by Dakshina Kannada (73), Mysuru (57), and Belagavi (50) in terms of highest number of EV charging stations. In fact, in many districts, the number is in single digits.

Officials from Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), which is the nodal agency for EV adaptation in Karnataka, attributed the low numbers in the districts to the lack of penetration of EVs in rural areas.

Lack of awareness

"People in Bengaluru are more aware of EVs. The city has EV showrooms compared to other districts. Most importantly, more people in Bengaluru can afford an EV, which costs more than an ICE vehicle," Mathapathi M. A., deputy general manager, EV, Smart Grid and EV Cell told *The Hindu*.

Those from other parts of Karnataka agree that not much has been done from the government's end to create awareness about the benefits of EV usage.

While only 265 stations out of over 5,000 have been set up with capex by various escoms, 195 of them are in the jurisdiction of Bescom.

Bescom officials attributed the low numbers in the districts to the lack of penetration of EVs in rural areas. FILE PHOTO

Mangaluru escom (Mescom) has set up 57 stations, Hukkeri escom (Hescom) has set up 12 stations, and Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company (CESC) has set up one station, and Gulbarga escom (Gescom) has not set up any.

"EV sellers should write to the local escoms asking them to set up charging stations. Currently, only tech-savvy people are using EVs in some places outside Bengaluru, like north Karnataka. There is not much publicity, but we are hopeful that the market will gradually expand. Bescom should bring in EV sellers, and organise seminars in other regions of the State to create awareness about EVs," said K.C. Nayakawadi, former managing director, Gescom.

Number of EV charging stations

Districts with the highest number	EV charging stations
Bengaluru Urban	4,281
Bengaluru Rural	192
Dakshina Kannada	73
Mysuru	57
Belagavi	50
Districts with the lowest number	
Chamarajanagar, Yadgir	4
Gadag, Vijayanagara	5
Bagalkote, Haveri	6

Source: Bureau of Energy Efficiency

Yatra portal

Mr. Mathapathi said that with private companies being the major players in installation of charging stations, many of them often do not submit their data to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's (BEE) EV Yatra portal, which can be another cause for awareness about stations in other districts.

"For instance, in January 2024, the number of stations in Karnataka on that portal was only 1,059. Then, we started collecting data from all the stakeholders, which took the number up to 5,700. That's how we landed in first place," Mr. Mathapathi said.

Bescom is in the process of collecting data about private charging stations from nodal officers in different districts.

Roadmap for increasing EV infrastructure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Among many plans Bescom has for increasing EV penetration and charging stations across the State is a proposal to set up charging stations alongside highways.

"We have done a joint survey with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) along the Bengaluru-Belagavi highway. We identified opportunities for 20 EV charging stations with 40 chargers at a cost of ₹12 crore. We are in talks for a joint survey with the State Highway authorities to set up EV charging stations at a cost of ₹15 crore," Mr. Mathapathi said.

The recent budget had an announcement that 2,500 new EV charging stations would be set up across Karnataka. A Bescom official said that the tender process is already underway to set up 585 charging stations across nine districts. A proposal is in place to call bids for setting up another 605 charging stations across 22 other districts.

He informed that the Transport Department has earmarked ₹360 crore to set up EV charging stations in 11 Regional Transport Offices (RTO) across Karnataka, for which bidding is in progress.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
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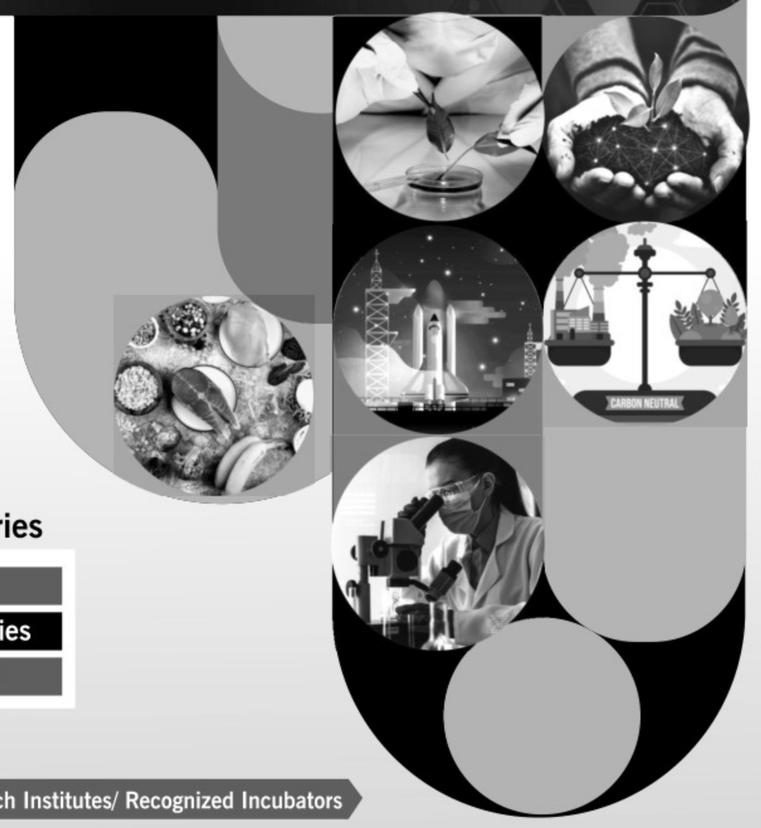

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(till 5:30 pm)

For queries, please contact:
Dr. Prachi Kaushik, Senior Manager, BIRAC Email: pkaushik.birac@nic.in

A BG-BGE

An inside view of Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

A cultural landscape of limited spaces and growing pains

Arts-centric venues fall short in Bengaluru where other built areas like apartment blocks and offices thrive. **Yemen S.** explores the infrastructure around performance spaces and speaks to the communities that work in theatre, music, and dance

A couple of months ago, VASP Theatre, an emerging troupe in Bengaluru, was in for a surprise when they landed at Kalagrama Auditorium in Malatahalli, managed by the Kannada and Culture Department. The auditorium had been double-booked with a dance group scheduled to perform on the same day. VASP had reserved the auditorium well in advance with a deposit. However, they had to eventually cancel the show and refund money to all those who had booked tickets. Worse, the wait to get the refund of the advance from the Department was several weeks.

This incident underscores a more significant issue plaguing Bengaluru's cultural landscape – grossly inadequate performance spaces for a bourgeoning city. Even as the population and expanse grow, and with it a richer cultural scene and a growing interest among the youth in theatre, music, dance, and various art forms, there are too few affordable performance spaces.

Amidst these challenges, Ravindra Kalakshetra, the nerve centre of cultural activities in Bengaluru, turned 60. Situated on J.C. Road in the heart of Bengaluru, it was built by the government way back in 1963. Since then, there has been no similar publicly-funded facility to match it in terms of seating capacity, connectivity, and affordability. Back then, Bengaluru's population was 12,92,000, according to the United Nations - World Population Prospects. In 2023, it ballooned to 1,36,08,000, an increase of 953%.

Samsa open-air auditorium on J.C. Road in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

> What performers and artists want are compact theatres of 300-500 seating capacity, with good light and sound equipment, spread out in various parts of the city.
>
> **J. LOKESH**
> senior theatre artist

Ravindra Kalakshetra on J.C. Road in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The Nayana auditorium and (right) the Town Hall in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

What a culture space needs

A recent ₹24 crore proposal for the renovation of Ravindra Kalakshetra has now been put on hold following a protest by theatre activists and artists on the grounds that it does not focus on what the artistic community and audience really need. Sreenivas G. Kappanna, one of Bengaluru's senior theatre artists, says that performance spaces must cater to their audience and artists rather than turning them into commercial spaces.

"Cinemas focus on comfort, such as air-conditioners, seating, and other amenities that a commercial space requires. But a performance space should focus on affordability and creating good technical support for artists," he said. In fact, the effort to make it "plush" has backfired, he argues. "Ravindra Kalakshetra is one of the best auditoriums in south India; it used to have great wing space, very good acoustics, and one of the biggest stages. However, a couple of years ago the department decided to put in air-conditioners. The ducts ruined the acoustics of the entire space," he adds. With the installation of the ACs also came a massive increase in rent, due to which many theatre, dance, and music troupes decided to perform without the AC. There has also been a fall in performances at the auditorium over the years, and it mainly hosts government events. "The government must stop investing in amenities that are not required by artists and should focus on increasing cultural activities in the space," he argues. In 2015, the rent used to be anywhere between ₹1,000 and ₹3,000 per show, depending on the event per show. It is now between ₹7,850 and ₹9,420.

Cost to (theatre) company

Currently, Bengaluru has close to 25 auditoriums, both government-run and private, that actively host cultural events. Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, on Kanakapura Road, is the most expensive space at ₹6.5 lakh per day. Ranga Shankara, run by the Sanket Trust in J.P. Nagar, is among the affordable spaces, with a rent of ₹2,500 per show and a 10% share in the troupe's box-office collection. However, it is restricted to theatre performances. The other options are now Ravindra Kalakshetra, K.H. Kalasoudha, Kalagrama, Town Hall, and a few others, which are run by the government, with varying capacities and rents.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has a couple of performance spaces in the city, but with many of them partially run by a third party, they are expensive, and the process of booking these spaces is unclear according to many artists. Among privately run ones, one of the affordable spaces is Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield, with a rent of ₹5,000 per show. However, due to its geographical location, distance from the heart of the city, and a perception that audience tastes in and around the area revolve around films rather than culture, a section of artists prefer other locations.

The city has well-maintained private performance spaces like Bangalore International Centre, Alliance Francaise, Chowdiah Memorial Hall, MLR Convention Centre, Prabhath Auditorium, Dr. C. Ashwath Kala Bhavana, Good Sheperd Auditorium and more. Rents range from ₹12,000 all the way up to ₹2.5 lakh per show/day.

There are educational institutions that also boast high seating capacity spaces, like Dayanand Sagar College, Christ (Deemed to be University), National College, St Joseph's University, Bangalore University, NMKRV College, JSS School and more. Even with all these spaces, performers say the numbers are still grossly inadequate, and the costs are often beyond their means.

Varshini Vijay, the founder of Prabhath Auditorium and proprietor of performance venues across the city, particularly in South Bengaluru, says it is a deliberate decision to set higher rental rates rather than seek external funding, "If we do not have a self-sustaining model, we must depend on grants or CSR [corporate social responsibility] funds. A space like Ranga Shankara is funded, making it the most affordable space in the city; Vyoma Art Space and Studio in the same vicinity sustains itself by conducting workshops throughout the year. We at Prabhath maintain our spaces with a slightly higher rent, as we are not funded and prefer not to be. Each space has a different model, and this is the only way to have quality spaces in the city," she argues.

An uneven distribution

Yet another issue about Bengaluru's cultural landscape underscored by both art enthusiasts and artists is the spatial distribution. Most auditoriums are situated in south and east Bengaluru. Though the north and western parts of the city have alternative performance spaces, the lack of well-equipped halls with a capacity of 300-500 seats has been a significant deterrent to people choosing these areas. According to Sathvika Nadig, a theatre and dance aficionado and a resident of Yelahanka, the lack of performance spaces in the area has led to a lack of interest in attending cultural events.

"I am a huge fan of theatre and enjoy watching Bharatanatyam performances, but I always have to commute to the south of Bengaluru, which is a minimum 50-km round trip. Some performance spaces do not allow you inside even if you are late by a minute, and with Bengaluru's traffic, I have ended up not showing up on time for many such cultural events. You tend to lose interest in cultural activities eventually," she says.

J. Lokesh, a senior theatre artist and ex-chairperson of Karnataka Nataka Academy, says equipping the existing BBMP performance spaces and creating compact spaces in these areas is crucial. "What performers and artists want are compact theatres of 300-500 seating capacity, with good light and sound equipment, spread out in various parts of the city," he says. He suggests that the government invest in quality equipment, a good stage, basic amenities like folding chairs, and simplifying the booking process. Then, the spaces in north and west Bengaluru can also help conduct events related to literature, women empowerment, and more. "The only way to take this forward is to have a committee with artists on the board, led by an IAS officer who has an equal interest in the arts," he says.

According to Vinay Shastry, founder of VASP theatre, "Over the last 20 years, several layouts and areas have been developed in the city, and the only means of entertainment these areas have are shopping malls and no cultural spaces. A little push by the artist community could also contribute to changing the cultural landscape of these areas." Ujwala Rao, a young English and Kannada theatre person, says artists also need to embrace alternative spaces in the city. "There are a few alternative spaces in north and west Bengaluru that have come up, which many people are not aware of. Whenever we perform in north Bengaluru, we are aware that the area lacks an audience base, and we will not have the same headcount we see in spaces in South Bengaluru, Indiranagar, or Koramangala, but we have taken the risk and performed."

Concurring with this view, Arundhati Nag, founder and managing trustee of Ranga Shankara, also says that it is time theatre practitioners explore smaller and informal spaces that already exist in the north and west of Bengaluru.

'This is a theatre'

"The demography of performance spaces has been ruled by the Kannada population staying in the South of Bengaluru, and North and West Bengaluru has a newer population. But there are a couple of new spaces in these areas, too, that are smaller and informal. It is time for theatre practitioners to explore new spaces. It is all about demand and supply, we need daredevil entrepreneurs to go to a space and say, 'this is a theatre' and it becomes a theatre," she said.

Alia Bhatt, with director Richie Mehta and actors Roshan Mathew and Dibyendu Bhattacharya, talks about the web series, *Poacher*

Entertaining yet relevant

One for the planet The cast and crew of *Poacher*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

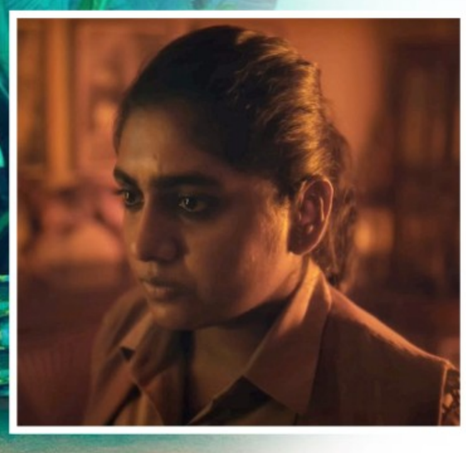
Alia Bhatt's love for Nature and wildlife began when she was a child. "As kids, my sister (Shaheen Bhatt) and I would rescue kittens," says the actor. She has now come on board as executive producer of the upcoming web series *Poacher*, a crime drama that revolves around Forest officials trying to uncover an ivory poaching ring.

"We have a responsibility towards our planet, and that's one of the reasons why I became a part of *Poacher*," says Alia, during an interaction with *The Hindu* in Mumbai. "Animals bring so much joy to us. It's important to reinstate the significance of the coexistence between humans and animals. I thought *Poacher* conveyed this message. The series speaks for an important cause," she says.

Alia adds that she and her daughter, Raha, enjoy connecting with nature. "My daughter grew up around animals, and she has so much love for them. As you grow up, you get occupied with school and college. And then, life takes over with excessive human interaction. In this context, a scientific explanation makes so much sense – it says that when you see greenery, your brain releases dopamine and you feel calm."

Writer and director of *Poacher,* Richie Mehta, who won the International Emmy Award for the web series *Delhi Crime,* calls the Malayalam thriller a conscience-driven project. "There are just about 40,000 Asian elephants left in the world. Statistically, and eventually, they could go extinct. We don't understand what extinction means because we never grapple with it. What does it mean when something is gone forever? The saddest I ever have been was during the shooting of *Delhi Crime,* when northern white rhinoceros went extinct. I was in tears," says Richie.

> ***"I saw something in Nimisha that I had never seen before in an actor. In* Poacher, *she kept taking her performance to the next level with every scene.***
>
> **ALIA BHATT**
> Actor



About the process of creating the series, he adds, "The art of balancing a strong social theme with the pace of your film or a series depends on many factors. The result is a mixture of editing, music, and tone. I keep my scripts as real as possible, and that helps. Thrillers are paced a certain way, and with every episode, the story moves faster. That's what I have tried to achieve in this series."

Actor Nimisha Sajayan plays a fierce Forest officer, while Roshan Mathew essays the role of a computer programmer who fights wildlife corruption while staying undercover, in the series. After starring in Tamil films *Jigarthanda: Double X,* the hit sequel to Karthik Subbaraj's *Jigarthanda (2014),* and *Chithha,* Nimisha's dream run continues with *Poacher.* "Nimisha is really in the moment while performing. She is always motivated and goes after what her heart tells," says Roshan.

Alia echoes Roshan's thoughts. "I was moved by her performance," she confesses. "I saw something in Nimisha that I had never seen before in an actor. I deep-dived into her work. I had seen her *in The Great Indian Kitchen.* In *Poacher,* she kept taking her performance to the next level with every scene. Like Roshan said, she is an actor who commits herself to the moment," says Alia.

The struggle for a work-life balance faced by his character was relatable "especially when you pursue this profession (cinema)", says Roshan. "I haven't had enough experience in the field to attain a certain level of maturity. I haven't yet added the responsibility of running a family to my existing challenges. But I play a real-life character who has achieved that. My character realises that his passion drives him elsewhere, but he is also upset for being an absent father. So I had to draw references from my own life and talk to the actual person,to play my character," he explains.

Actor Dibyendu Bhattacharya, while speaking about his role of a Field Director in the Kerala Forest Department,says acting is an evolving process. "As an actor, I prepare every day. On the sets of a project, we work on the mannerisms of the particular character. Otherwise, every day, I am trying to be better as an actor," he adds.

The series is set to stream on Amazon Prime Video from February 23

Now, farm at a mall

How Bengaluru's urban farmers teamed up to create farms atop the city's malls and more

Green thumb The urban farm at Nexus Shantiniketan and the team behind it. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nidhi Adlakha
nidhi.adlakha@thehindu.co.in

You can shop at a mall, watch a movie, and enjoy a meal but now, courtesy of an initiative by the city's urban farmers, Naveen Kumar and Thankachan Chempotty, you can learn how an urban farm works and buy fresh produce.

In December 2023, Naveen collaborated with Thankachan (of the 23-acre certified organic Chempotty Estate in Karnataka), to launch the Urban Raitharu project, aimed at greening the city's urban landscape. "A green revolution is taking root amidst the concrete jungle, and we are championing urban gardening, supporting local farmers, and nurturing a culture of sustainability," adds Naveen, who launched BaKaHu aka Bale Kai Hudi, a brand specialising in raw banana powder, ready-to-cook millet products, vegetable and fruit chips, to name a few.

With a strong focus on urban gardening, Naveen and Thankachan have tied up with Nexus Malls across the State to host farmer's markets and set up community gardens.

"Recognising the vital role of farmers in our food system, the project is committed to supporting local agriculture through the establishment of markets that serve as platforms for farmers, agribusinesses, sustainability ventures, and artisans," says Naveen.

The latest in their kitty is the launch of the Urban Raitharu Farm, BaKaHu Millet Adda, Huraco Chocolate Creation from Chempotty Estate, and the Urban Raitharu monthly farmer's market at Nexus Shantiniketan mall.

"This innovative venture brings the essence of rural agriculture to the heart of the city. The farm serves as a living showcase of urban gardening and sustainable food production. Visitors can explore lush green spaces, learn about organic farming practices, and engage in hands-on gardening activities," explains Naveen.

"The monthly farmers' market will be held on the last Sunday of every month, and it will bring together farmers, producers, and consumers," says the farmer who, along with wife, Veena Bhat, bought six acres of barren land in Kudineeru Muddenahalli village a decade ago. Over time, their efforts bore fruit, quite literally, and their farm now spans over 12 acres.

With plans to expand the mall-farm model across other localities, Naveen says Indian cities can greatly benefit from such projects. "Urban gardens contribute to increasing green space within cities, which helps improve air quality, regulate temperatures, and provide habitat for wildlife."

Also on their priority list is providing resources and support to individuals and communities interested in starting their own gardens.

"These gardens may take different forms, including vegetable plots, fruit orchards, herb gardens, and flower beds," he concludes.

For details, visit urbanraitharu.com

The 21-member orchestra will be led by a Belgian conductor and co-founder of Bangalore City Chamber Orchestra, Joris Decolvenaer

Shilpa Anandraj
shilpa.anandraj@thehindu.co.in

The Bangalore City Chamber Orchestra (BCCO) will perform in Bengaluru before heading to Goa for a free concert on February 29 at St Michael's Church, Taleigao, Goa. The event is presented by the Philomena Thumboochetty Music Academy and is supported by The Embassy Group, Puravankara, Furtados Music, IMAS and 360 One.

BCCO was founded in 2018 by Arun Rozario (also the director) with his wife, Tanisha Herbert, conductor Joris Decolvenaer and the late Sanya Myla Cotta.

Arun, a Bengaluru-based concert violinist, says he has always been passionate about music education. Arun studied Engineering from VTU (Visvesvaraya Technological University) while always studying Music on the side.

"I had the privilege to study with some good teachers in India, US and Germany," says the violinist, from his home in Horamavu. "I started learning music early in life. I then travelled abroad to study music and perform. I returned to Bengaluru to impart training in western classical music here."

Driven by passion Arun Rozario wishes to create world class music. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

String theory

The aim, says Arun, was to start a school in Bengaluru to train homegrown talent in Western professional classical music. "When I say 'professional', I mean we get professional artistes from across the country and world giving promising students a platform to perform beside them. This has been my dream and driving force."

Arun started the VioVoi Music Academy in 2017. He teamed up with a number of organisations. "Philomena Thumboochetty Music Academy and International Music and Art Society (IMA), Mysuru, were some of the organisations that encouraged arts and have been very supportive of us."

In 2018, after a successful premier season, Arun started BCCO with four other musicians. The aim of BCCO, Arun says, is to help musicians get a chance to showcase their talent.

Music has no boundaries, Arun says, whether it is Indian or western classical. "If we look at the violin, piano and guitar, they are all Western instruments and we have adapted them to our culture and music, which is amazing. We have a lot of music that is westernised, in films."

Arun will perform with the orchestra. The February edition will consist of a 21-member string orchestra led by Joris and will feature trained musicians from Europe, India and Bengaluru. It will include 11 violinists, four violas, three cellists and two double bassists.

BCCO will perform on February 26 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, 7pm. Tickets on BookMyShow.

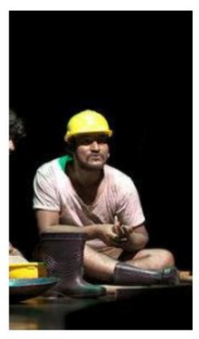
STEPOUT

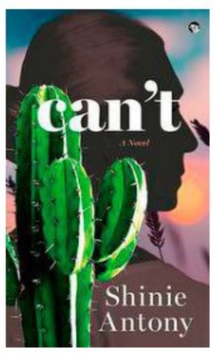
Masters on a stage

Dhruv Arts (UK and India) is presenting a digital concert series titled Masters Of Karnataka (MOK).
Curated by Jyotsna Srikanth, it will feature artistes such as Veena R Vishweshwaran, Nagamani Srinath, Rudrapatnam Brothers, AV Anand and TS Chandrashekar.
February 23 to 25, on OnlyKannada OTT platform.

On women, by women

The play *Kohinoor*, based on women's studies, written by Sangeeta Ghoshal and directed by Shruti Rao will be staged in the city. The non-linear play is about four women from different demographics. *Tickets on BookMyShow. February 23, at Medai, 7.30pm.*





Book on a booklover

The book, *Can't*, by Shinie Anthony is to be launched in Bengaluru. It is about Nena, who speaks many languages and still grieves over the books that were her childhood companions, which were thrown away by her brother. *On February 24, 4pm at Atta Galatta*

Amid protest, House adopts resolution condemning Centre for 'denying State its rightful share of taxes'

Stepmotherly attitude of the Centre is destroying Karnataka's economy by causing huge financial losses, it says; Opposition members stage dharna, tear copies of the resolution

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking the Karnataka government's recent protest in Delhi against alleged injustice by the Centre in the devolution of funds to the next level, the Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted a resolution condemning what it called the "stepmotherly attitude of the Centre which is destroying the State's economy by causing huge financial losses by denying it the rightful share of taxes, Central funds, and drought as well as flood relief".

The resolution was adopted by a voice vote amid vociferous dharna by the Opposition members who tore off copies of the resolution.

The resolution, which was tabled by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, said, "Karnataka has suffered a huge cumulative loss of ₹ 1,87,867 crore from 2017-18 due to unscientific GST system, cheating in its tax share by the Centre through increase in cess and surcharges, failure to provide special allocation as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission and 23% reduction in allocation to the State by the 15th Finance Commission."

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil speaking in the Legislative Assembly.

The resolution said that it was a matter of concern that the Centre had not given even a single paisa from the Disaster Relief Fund for handling drought and floods though it had statutory backing.

'Injustice and bias'

The resolution further said, "In the last decade, ever since the BJP-led NDA came to power at the Centre, people of Karnataka have noticed several instances of injustice and bias in releasing grants recommended by the Finance Commissions and the Central share of drought relief as per norms and granting development projects." It observed that "failure of the Centre to follow principles of minimum natural justice that it should not cause injustice to the well-developed States along with the concept of providing more allocation to the poor and underdeveloped States has delivered a serious blow to development of progressive States like Karnataka."

It alleged that Karnataka had lost its tax share of ₹62,098 crore as the 15th Finance Commission had reduced its share by 1.066%. It accused the 15th Finance Commission of meting out serious injustice to a progressive State like Karnataka by following unscientific norms though the State had taken strict measures to control population besides ensuring disciplined financial management.

Accusing the Centre of enforcing the GST under a one-nation, one-tax system in an unscientific manner and without an efficient tax policy, the resolution alleged that the total tax collection in the country which stood at around ₹6.47 lakh crore earlier had crashed to a level of just ₹2.5 lakh crore after the introduction of the GST. Karnataka too had seen a reduction of 30% in its tax collection while the Centre's assurance of the GST regime boosting the revenues still remains an illusion, it noted.

Karnataka had seen a drastic cut even in the Centrally sponsored projects, it alleged while pointing out that as against the expected level of ₹1 lakh crore, the State's actual allocation from the Centre for the Centrally sponsored projects was below ₹50,000 crore, it said.

It accused the Centre of trying to increase its resources through cess and surcharges as they were not being allocated to States by the Finance Commissions.

State urges Centre to grant demands of protesting farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Empathising with farmers who have been protesting against the Centre for the last nine days demanding statutory backing to minimum support price (MSP) for their crops, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted a resolution demanding that the Centre enact a legislation to prescribe MSP for all crops of farmers.

"This House demands that the farmers' most justified demands (providing legal guarantee for MSP) be fulfilled without resorting to conflict with them," the resolution, which was adopted amid dharna by the Opposition BJP and JD (S) members, said.

Blaming the Centre for the problems of farmers, the resolution observed that the measures being followed by the Centre have turned out to be "anti-farmer" and created a situation that is denying minimum support price.

The resolution observed that it had become inevitable for farmers to take to a nationwide campaign in support of their demand for providing legal guarantee for MSPs for all crops and calculate the prices based on the M.S. Swaminathan commission's recommendations.

The commission had recommended that the MSP should be prescribed by adding 50% of the cost of cultivation of crops in a bid to achieve the green revolution and also make agriculture profitable. But no significant progress has been made in achieving this, it observed.

Ashok: Govt. allocating meagre sum for temples

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Thursday accused the Congress government of pursuing an "anti-Hindu" policy by earmarking a meagre amount for the development of temples and mutts.

"As against the special assistance of ₹154.8 crore given to temples and mutts by the BJP government in 2022-23, the Congress government has allocated only ₹30 crore in the Budget for 2024-25. Similarly, as against the spending of ₹274 crore by the erstwhile BJP government on the development of temples, the Congress government has earmarked only ₹17 crore in the present Budget," he claimed.

Bellad's claim on guarantees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Arvind Bellad on Thursday claimed that the State government's five guarantees would discontinue after the Lok Sabha elections in April-May and the Finance Department had already flagged the financial difficulties being faced by the State by the implementation of the guarantees.

Speaking on the State Budget for 2024-25, Mr. Bellad claimed the department had proposed to exclude seven categories of people from the benefits of guarantees and they are: anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, government outsourcing and contract workers, guest teachers, and gram panchayat assistants.

The department had also recommended the exclusion of income tax payers, women filing GST returns, landholders of more than five acres of dry land, persons having an income of ₹1.2 lakh per year, four-wheel owners, government employees, and pensioners, he said.

Share of income of rich temples will be used to fund poor ones: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Countering the allegations by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that the State government has made amendments to the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, to "take away a share of the rich temple's income" to be used for other purposes, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah termed the allegation as "deliberate misinformation".

Ramalinga Reddy

Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy clarified that the money so taken would be in the 'Common Pool Fund', which will be administered by the Rajya Dharmika Parishat. The parishat will, among other objectives, fund poor 'C' grade temples and provide several facilities for temple priests and their families, including health insurance and scholarships.

"The Common Pool Fund is utilised only for the benefit of religious purposes of Hindu religious institutions since the Act came into force in 2003 and in future also, it will be utilised for the same purpose," Mr. Reddy said in a statement, adding that the BJP should first read the law, rather than spread "baseless canards". Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the BJP was deliberately "trying to polarise people along communal lines".

What the BJP said

Earlier, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra alleged the amendments brought by the Congress government would ensure the State government takes away 10% of the income of temples whose income is over ₹1 crore annually. "The money donated by Hindu devotees has to be used only for providing facilities for devotees and upliftment of temples and if it is used for other purposes, it will hurt the religious beliefs of devotees," he said. BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya tweeted on similar lines.

In a press note issued on Thursday, Mr. Reddy said the Common Pool Fund was not a new initiative and was established in 2003. He further said the 1997 Act was amended in 2011, when the BJP was in power, to take 5% of the net income of institutions whose annual income is in the range of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, and 10% of the net income of institutions whose annual income is above ₹10 lakh. "Through this, the Common Pool Fund has been collecting ₹8 crore annually, which is not sufficient for funding all poorer temples and taking up welfare measures for priests," Mr. Reddy said, defending the need for the amendment. The State government has now brought an amendment according to which henceforth all temples whose annual income is less than ₹10 lakh need not contribute to the Common Pool Fund, temples whose annual income is in the range of ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore have to contribute 5% of their income and those temples with above ₹1 crore annual income 10%.

Composite institutions

Reacting to the BJP taking exception to a provision in the law to also allow the appointment of members from other religions, Mr. Reddy said there were two "composite institutions" belonging to the department, namely, Sri Guru Dattatreya Baba Budan Swamy Dargah, Chikkamagaluru, and Sri Bhootaraya Chowdeshwari and Sadath Ali Dargah, Teerthahalli, to which it is applicable. He said the BJP was trying to deliberately "mislead" by implying it was applicable to all religious institutions.

Panel report finds violation in allotment of industrial sites to SCs/STs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Such instances were found in 12 industrial areas, particularly in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Kolar

A report of the Karnataka State Legislature Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Welfare found gross irregularities in the allotment of industrial sites to SCs and STs in 12 industrial areas, particularly in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Kolar, by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).

Poorly located

The report, which was tabled in the State Legislative Assembly by Congress member P.M. Narendra Swamy, said that industrial sites located in interior places, under hi-tension electricity wires, and disputed sites have been given to SC/ST business people. The reservation of 24.1% was not followed while distributing industrial sites to the community people, it said.

Noting that sites have not been distributed to SCs and STs in commercial and valuable locations, the report said sites have been distributed in total violation of the reservation system at the Hitech Defence and Aerospace Park near the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

To fill the backlog, the committee recommended that sites should be allotted to SC/ST beneficiaries in the second phase of the Hitech Defence and Aerospace Park.

Big firms misusing land

It said companies such as Infosys Ltd. in Mysuru and Hubballi have been allotted 300 and 200 acres, respectively, at subsidised prices. They built training centres on the land. However, no jobs were created and they have become real estate properties. Companies such as Flipkart and Amazon too have used the land for real estate purposes, the report noted.

The panel recommended to the government to follow the reservation system while allotting sites in bulk in industrial areas.

Religious structures

In some industrial areas, a few beneficiaries have constructed religious convention centres (dharmika bhavana) to escape from paying taxes. Such buildings should be demolished immediately, the report said.

Muddahanume Gowda joins Cong.

S.P. Muddahanume Gowda, former Tumakuru MP, joined the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The former MP from Tumakuru, S.P. Muddahanume Gowda, on Thursday, quit the BJP and joined the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC chief and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, at the party office here.

He had quit the Congress for being "sidelined" in the party ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He had won the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 as the Congress candidate. The Congress had denied the ticket to Mr. Gowda to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The JD(S) and the Congress had entered into an alliance to fight the elections against the BJP and fielded the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda from Tumakuru constituency. But Mr. Deve Gowda was defeated in the elections by G.S. Basavaraj of the BJP.

The Congress is likely to field Mr. Mudduhanume Gowda in Tumakuru in the coming Lok Sabha polls.

TAMILNADU HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Short e- Tender Notice No. FPM2/ 8098 /2023 Dt: 22.02.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil nadu, Short e-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors by the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency, 3rd floor, Agriculture Building Complex, Chepauk, Chennai-5, for the following work.

Sl. No	Description of work	Approximate Tender Value including 18% GST (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Construction of Glass Green House with Integrated Museum for Establishment of Kalaignar Centenary Park, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Chennai	733.960

Short e-Tender bid submission closing date:29.02.2024. The e-tender documents, EMD details, BOQ and other tender documents which can be downloaded from the **website: https://tntenders.gov.in** free of cost. The tender inviting authority reserves the right to cancel or postpone the tender without assigning any reasons there for.

DIPR / 1175 / TENDER/2024

MANAGING DIRECTOR, TANHODA

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NMP-Nitrogen Gas Plant/1822/2023-24 Date: 22-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below.The interested manufacturers / authorised dealer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Erection, testing & Commissioning of Nitrogen Gas Plant and related works at NMP	1 Job	50,000/-	3 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 23-02-2024 to 01-03-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 01-03-2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 02-03-2024 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

Government of Karnataka
Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences
Autonomous Medical education Institute, Sagar Road, Shivamogga 577201. www.sims-shimoga.com
Ph: 08182-229933 / 264101 Fax no.: 08182 264100
No.: SIMSS/ADM/D.R.-23/2023-24/ Date: 20.02.2024

Recruitment Notice

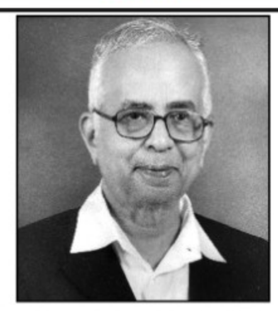
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the posts of Associate Professor and assistant Professor at the Radiology Department of Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shivamogga. Interested eligible candidates can submit applications. For further information, original notification, eligibility and application form visit website of the Institute www.sims-shimoga.com and the Notice Board of the Institute.Last date for submission of Application: 29.02.2024, 9.30 AM. Application fees is Rs. 2500/-. Date of Interview: 29.02.2024, 11.00 AM at SIMS Directors meeting room, Shivamogga.

Sd/- Director, Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/No.164/02/23-24/KSMCA/1345

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Shri NAGABUSHANAM
Retired DGM,OF Chandrapur (OFC)
90 years, passed away peacefully at his residence in Bengaluru on Feb 22, 2024.
He will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew and loved him. He touched many hearts with his virtues, compassion, generosity and humor.
Last rites will be held on 23rd Feb 2024 at Bengaluru.
Deeply Mourned by Family & Friends
Contact - Ravichandar, 97311 21919

How Bengaluru forgot its geography and what that means for its residents

Raj Bhagat Palanichamy reiterates the importance of considering the city's topography in its planning, while pointing out that this aspect was completely ignored while Bengaluru grew haphazardly

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

'There are hundreds and thousands of stories you can tell about Bengaluru through maps,' says Palanichamy.

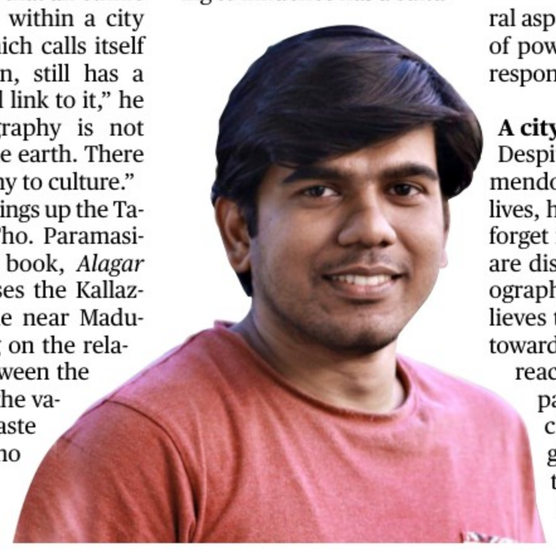
Raj Bhagat Palanichamy has been obsessed with geography ever since he was a child. "I was the state's topper in Geography, History and Civics," he says at a recent talk focused on Bengaluru's geography, held at The Bangalore Room, Indiranagar.

Admitting that he is lucky to have a career in a field of study he loves, Palanichamy, Senior Program Manager, Geo Analytics for Sustainable Cities & Transport program at WRI India, says that he sees the world around him through the lens of geography. "It is one way to see or picturise things," he says, "Every aspect of life - religion, politics, economics, social situation - has a geographical linkage to it."

Madiwala and Malayalees

He makes his case by asking the audience to identify an area in Bengaluru that is home to many of the city's Malayalees. "Madiwala," says an audience member, which Palanichamy agrees with, pointing out that there are numerous reasons why the community clusters there. "What you can notice is that an ethnic group, even within a city like this, which calls itself cosmopolitan, still has a geographical link to it," he says. "Geography is not just about the earth. There is a geography to culture."

He also brings up the Tamil writer Tho. Paramasivan, whose book, *Alagar Kovil*, analyses the Kallazhagar temple near Madurai, focusing on the relationship between the temple and the various caste groups who had settled around it rather than its history, rituals, mythology or architecture. "I was very much a tech guy, seeing everything in numbers and codes. He (Tho Pa) played a big role in transforming the way I see geography," he observes.


Raj Bhagat Palanichamy

Palanichamy feels that geography is important because it serves as a bridge between the natural and social sciences. "It is not about using science and technology for a living. I have to understand what is happening over there," he says. "Every policy I am going to influence has a cultural aspect to it. I wield a lot of power, and I should be responsible."

A city in maps

Despite geography's tremendous impact on our lives, he points out that we forget its importance. "We are disconnected from geography," he rues. He believes this myopic attitude towards geography has far-reaching consequences, particularly in Tier 1 cities, including Bengaluru. "In Tier 2 cities, you can see the earth somewhere, whereas here (in Bengaluru), you touch dust, not soil," he says.

A truck with Tamil Nadu registration was set on fire on Mysuru Road in Bengaluru in September 2016 after the Supreme Court order on the Cauvery water sharing issue between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Palanichamy likes maps. Using his impressive cartography skills, he elaborates on Bengaluru's geography, how it affects the city and its residents and why it needs to be considered while developing the city.

"There are hundreds and thousands of stories you can tell about Bengaluru through maps," he states before delving into one of them: its topography and why forgetting about it has proven to be a costly mistake.

Exhibiting a cross-section of various cities and where they stand elevation-wise compared to Bengaluru, Palanichamy points out that the city is located in the heart of the Mysore plateau at an altitude that is greater than 97% of Indian cities. "Bangalore is technically a hill station. There are very few cities (both in India and internationally) at this elevation," he says.

This unique topography has positive and negative effects, in his opinion, especially when considering urbanisation. For instance, Bengaluru's perennial water problem is partly a function of its topography. While part of the city lies in the Cauvery watershed, being at this height means you have to pump water upwards. "The more people you have to accommodate, the more you have to pump. So, how much can you urbanise?" asks Palanichamy. In the same breath, he also talks about the politics of the Cauvery water-sharing issue and how the water allotted for the city is simply not enough for it. "You are allotted only a certain amount of water, and the allotment is only for the western and south-western parts of the city. But it is (also) required for the eastern and northern Bengaluru, which are the growing parts of the city," he says.

Fire Services personnel evacuate residents of the flooded Rainbow Layout after Halanayakanahalli lake breach following heavy rain, on Sarjapur Road in 2022. K. MURALI KUMAR

Other issues

Palanichamy also talks about how urbanisation affects markets in and around the city, how our desire for unseasonal vegetables affects the water and vegetation, and why valleys abound in plateau regions. He appears to be unconvinced by the oft-repeated belief that all flooding issues in the city can be simply traced back to the destruction of its once-vibrant network of lakes. "I hear everyone talk about the cascading network of lakes, but I don't like that way of defining it," says Palanichamy, who believes that this so-called network was incidental, not planned.

In his opinion, while people often talk about the lakes in the city when it floods, they have forgotten about the city's valleys and how rampant urbanisation has played a huge part in this perennial issue. For starters, the city of Bengaluru has grown exponentially compared to the rest of Karnataka, he says, using a nighttime map of the city to drive home his point, with Bengaluru clearly the brightest by far, going by the amount of light picked up by satellites.

"Previous census says that the next city in Karnataka is ten times smaller than Bengaluru. It is a huge difference, very skewed," he says.

Unbalanced growth

Palanichamy then delves into the history of the city's unbalanced growth, pointing out that Bengaluru initially comprised mostly just the fort, pete area, and cantonment. However, the city expanded in the 20th century with several public sector enterprises coming in, and then eventually exploded due to the tech revolution between 1990 and 2016.

"This was the peak period of Bengaluru's growth," he says, adding that the growth has happened in all directions, mostly driven by the market. "What has it respected? Nothing," he says, pointing out that unlike in planned cities like Los Angeles in the United States, which have a downtown filled with skyscrapers and suburbs around the edges, high-rise buildings in Bengaluru have mushroomed arbitrarily depending on the availability of real estate. Again, using maps as well as geocoded photographs, he showcases the consequences of this unplanned development. He lists out some of the locations in the city that have experienced intense flooding over the years, and points out that it is mostly a function of these areas being built in valleys.

"We have forgotten that we have to be careful about (constructing) in low-lying areas," he says. "These big projects in Bengaluru often disrespect not only Bengaluru's topography but also its existing infrastructure," he argues. "The valley is the most important thing, and we are totally ignoring it in our conversations. Put this topography map into the planning, and it will be sorted out," says Palanichamy.

IIIT-B Innovation Centre and Grameen Foundation team up for national-level hackathon

Technology enthusiasts came together to devise innovative solutions addressing critical issues. GETTY IMAGES

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IIIT-B Innovation Centre recently announced its academic partnership with the Grameen Foundation for Social Impact (GFSI). This partnership witnessed IIIT-B hosting the TerraTech Challenge 2024 - a National-Level Hackathon in collaboration with GFSI, and the knowledge and technology partner, Protean.

The event was held recently, where technology enthusiasts from across the southern states came together to devise innovative solutions addressing critical issues in the domain of financial inclusion.

Dr. Lakshmi Jagannathan, Chief Executive Officer, IIIT-B Innovation Centre, said, "We are delighted to partner with Grameen Foundation for this impactful initiative. The TerraTech Challenge aligns seamlessly with IIIT-B's commitment to fostering innovation and leveraging technology for societal development."

The TerraTech Challenge 2024 Hackathon, a flagship initiative by GFSI was aimed at harnessing the potential of technology to drive positive social change. With a primary focus on financial inclusion, the hackathon served as a platform for bright minds to collaborate, ideate and create transformative solutions, said a release.

Arindam Dasgupta, Director, Innovations in Digital Finance, Grameen Foundation, added, "We believed that this Hackathon would not only unearth groundbreaking solutions but also incubate the winning team for a transformative journey ahead."

Infosys Foundation and C-CAMP join hands to strengthen maternity care

As part of this project, a cutting-edge fetal monitoring technology will be deployed to enhance the health monitoring of expectant mothers across district hospitals and community health centres

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Launch of C-CAMP Infosys Foundation Project by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Infosys Foundation has announced its collaboration with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) to launch the C-CAMP-Infosys Foundation Project Early Life, which is aimed at bolstering maternity care, both for expectant mothers and newborns, in Karnataka, using innovative medical technologies. Infosys Foundation has committed ₹8.5 crore towards this project, which will address the early adoption of healthcare technology at low-resource health facilities to improve maternal health screening as well as address the rising cases of neonatal mortality.

As part of this project, a cutting-edge fetal monitoring technology will be deployed to enhance health monitoring of expectant mothers across district hospitals and community health centres, in Karnataka.In addition, a neonatal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure device, which provides respiratory support for newborns in respiratory distress, will be made available across critical care newborn units in district and taluk hospitals. This collaboration aims to benefit about 50,000 to 1 lakh women and 4,000 newborns, across eight districts in the state, over a period four years.

Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, said, "Improving maternal and newborn healthcare in the districts is a very important priority for us. We will be starting with Dharwad and Ballari and cover a total of eight districts to strengthen health monitoring for all mothers and quality care to newborns requiring critical care support."

Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO and Director, C-CAMP, said, "This initiative furthers our collective endeavour of leveraging advanced technology built indigenously to provide quality care to mothers and their newborns, and creating avenues for affordable and accessible healthcare in Karnataka."

Sunil Kumar Dhareshwar, Trustee, Infosys Foundation, said, "Maternity care has been a key area of focus for Infosys Foundation within the healthcare space. The C-CAMP-Infosys Foundation Project Early Life will not only give a boost to the public healthcare infrastructure in the State, but also give impetus to the adoption of innovative technologies."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 23, 1974

Dairy Milk to Cost More

Bangalore, Feb. 22: The milk supply by the Bangalore Dairy will cost 20 paise more per litre from to-morrow. The price of curd marketed by the dairy has also been enhanced by 20 paise per kilogram. At present milk is sold at Rs. 1.50 a litre and curd at Rs. 1.50 a kilogram. However, the prices of butter and ghee supplied by the dairy have been retained at Rs. 18 and Rs. 21 a kilogram respectively. The dairy has also enhanced the purchase rate of milk by 10 paise per kilogram.

The milk is purchased by the dairy from milk producers at different rates varying with fat content. The rate varies from about 80 paise to Rs. 1.77 a kilogram.

Vast benefits from Kudremukh for Karnataka

Bangalore, Feb. 22: The news of the Iranian offer of credit for the Kudremukh iron ore project has raised new hopes in Karnataka.
(The offer of Iranian aid was made during Mr Swaran Singh's trip to Tehran yesterday.)

The Rs. 200-crore ambitious project, intended for the exploitation of the rich magnetite deposits in Kudremukh area, had been facing many difficulties, the main one being the lack of resources to push through a scheme of that size. The State Government has been eager to have the project executed, in view of the enormous benefits, both industrial and economic, that would flow to the State. The National Mineral Development Corporation had been entrusted with the task of giving a shape to the project and executing it.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Ban on single-use plastic

Realising the gravity of the plastic menace, the central government imposed a ban on identified single use plastic items that had low utility and high littering potential with effect from July 1, 2022, under the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021. The notification also prohibited sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than 120 microns.

Discarded clothes everywhere

Popular pilgrim centres Kukke Subrahmanya, Dharmasthala, and Kolluru, that are located on the banks of rivers, are facing the problem of piled up used clothes discarded by devotees in Kumaradhara, Netravathi and Souparnika rivers. This is part of an age old belief system, while such discarded material choke the life in rivers.

Stench along the highways

When one travels from Mangaluru towards Bengaluru on National Highway 75 in a non air-conditioned vehicle, keeping the windows open, one frequently encounters stench at repeated intervals. Waste - wet as well as dry - thrown on the flanks of the highway at secluded places and not picked up by the local administration cause stench along the highway.

Waste from neighbours

In areas South of Mangaluru abutting Kochi-Panvel National Highway 66, while a major portion passes through three urban local bodies of Ullal, Kotekar and Someshwara that have a door-to-door waste collection system, there are some black spots. The ULBs attribute this to regular travellers from areas across the border throwing waste along the highway.

Contribution of tourists

With Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts housing some of the popular pilgrim and other tourist attractions, visitors to these places indulging in littering highway flanks and other places have been going on in a big way. In what could be termed as lack of sensitivity to environmental and hygiene issues, tourists dump trash after having food.

Big footfall brings big mounds of plastic and other waste

Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, which have many pilgrim and tourist destinations that attract thousands, struggle to dispose of mounds of waste. While locals are more easily convinced to keep their environs clean, the floating population poses a problem often. The local bodies here are trying to evolve solutions

Anil Kumar Sastry
MANGALURU

Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology Eshwar Khandre on February 5 officially declared temple town Dharmasthala as "plastic free." Much effort had gone into it behind the scenes by the Dharmasthala Gram Panchayat as well as Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala. The fight against plastic is no small battle in the rural areas of Karnataka, which are fast losing their "rural" character.

Plastic menace is no longer confined to urban areas and has traversed to the nooks and corners of the country. The undivided Dakshina Kannada district, that hosts several prominent pilgrim and tourist attractions, struggles with this problem. With rural local bodies lacking funds as well as expertise to handle waste, they are often piled up on the flanks of roads, highways and abandoned places.

Dharmasthala experiment

Dharmasthala Gram Panchayat decided to fight this by taking steady steps months before the declaration. The menace was largely caused by tourists visiting Dharmasthala in thousands rather than the resident villagers. The Panchayat, therefore, organised sensitisation programmes, workshops etc., for the shopkeepers to dissuade them from selling single-use plastic, said P. Srinivas Rao, the Vice President of the Panchayat.

Panchayat President Vimala, Mr. Rao, members, the panchayat development officer and other officials visited every shop in the town to urge shopkeepers not to pack items in single-use plastic and use cloth bags instead. Similarly, shopkeepers at the Netravathi Bathing Ghat were urged not to sell shampoo sachets to prevent the plastic joining the River, which is the lifeline of Dakshina Kannada.

The declaration of "plastic free" village by Mr. Khandre was a small beginning and much more needs to be done to prevent the menace. For once, Mr. Rao says he is unable to understand the logic behind banning single-use plastic while the government continues to allow its production. Until they are available in the market, single-use plastic would continue to thrive, he said. Besides dissuading shopkeepers from packing items in plastic, the Panchayat was also preventing entry of wholesale plastic sellers into the town he said. It has also erected display boards at vantage points announcing the ban on single-use plastic and also cautioning people that they were under CCTV surveillance, Mr. Rao said.

Clothes everywhere

At the Netravathi Bathing Ghat, discarded clothes too contribute to the environment pollution. Devotees who take a dip in the river discard old clothes to flow some belief thereby polluting the water body. Also, hundreds taking bath using bath soaps and shampoo too contributes to the pollution affecting the life in water. Unless people become sensitive to environmental pollution, the practice could not be stopped, though the Panchayat makes frequent appeals to them, Mr. Rao said.

Another major temple town in Dakshina Kannada, Kukke Subrahmanya, that witnesses thousands of footfalls of devotees from across the State, too has been a victim of the plastic menace. Just as Netravathi Bathing Ghat witnesses discarded clothes and plastic material, the Kumaradhara Bathing Ghat too witnesses similar items. The Gram Panchayat here too has asked shopkeepers not to pack items in single use plastic covers.

Moving population

Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat CEO K. Anandh said the waste accumulation could be attributed to two main sources - from the residents and from the moving population. While residents, even in villages, have more or less become conscious about the effect of plastic menace and refrain from littering their surroundings, the moving population, mainly comprising tourists, was yet to come to terms, he said.

The gram panchayat team headed by president Vimala, vice-president P. Srinivas Rao and other members that worked for a "plastic-free" village at Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pattadhikari D. Veerendra Heggade watches alternatives for single-use plastic items at a recent exhibition in Dharmasthala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A scene at Mudipu near Mangaluru. H.S. MANJUNATH

Gram panchayat personnel sending back a vehicle bringing bulk single-use plastic for distribution to shops recently in Dharmasthala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Material Recovery Facility

Dr. Anandh said the Dakshina Kannada ZP was one among the five selected by the state government to implement dry waste recycling through Material Recovery Facilities (MRF). Under the scheme, the ZP has to map all the 223 gram panchayats in the district to one or the MRF thereby ensuring all the dry waste generated in the district is recycled. Because the GPs were not financially viable to have MRF of their own, the cluster-based approach was being followed, he added. The Zilla Panchayat has already established one such MRF at Thenka Yedapadavu village in Mangaluru taluk that has an installed capacity to process 10 tonnes of dry waste per day. As many as 51 GPs in Mangaluru and Moodbidri taluks were mapped to this facility, the second such set up in Karnataka. The ZP was in the process of establishing three more MRF, one each in Belthangady, Bantwal and Puttur taluks with 7 tonnes per day installed capacity thereby covering all the GPs in the district.

Dr. Anandh said the MRFs could handle 21 kinds of dry waste and recycle all the material that could be recycled. The materials that could not be recycled were compressed into bricks and sent to cement factories as fuel. MRFs work on Zero Cost model, neither the GP pays anything to the operator nor the operator pays anything to the GP. Yet, the facility helps to eliminate the dry waste menace by providing employment to at least 20-25 people in the local region. Initially people were apprehensive to allow such a facility in their backyard. However field visits to MRFs where the waste was scientifically segregated and processed, eliminated their apprehensions.

The Udupi Zilla Panchayat has commissioned Karnataka's first MRF in rural area, at Nitte village in Karkala taluk that was being operated by a start-up, M/s Mangalal Resources Pvt., Ltd., of Mangaluru. Being in operation since August, 2022, the facility has an installed capacity to handle 10 tonnes of waste per day. As many as 42 GPs in Karkala, Hebri and Udupi taluks were mapped to this MRF.

Still there was some practical difficulties in handling waste, namely, thermocol, diapers, sanitary pads and such other material. Neither can these be processed at MRFs nor can they be burnt at incinerators because of the huge cost involved in the incineration process. One needs to have a different strategy to tackle these wastes differently. It requires special intervention to prevent such material from reaching the Sea, he said.

The way forward

Dr. Anandh said it was not an big task to convince villagers not to litter their surroundings and hand over the waste to the collecting agency. However, the local body should have a full-fledged waste collection system and keep the residents assured about the waste collection at regular intervals.

The problem lies with the floating population while the solution could be in the form of rigorous enforcement with the installation of CCTV cameras and imposing hefty penalties for littering. Tourists travelling from one place to another have the habit of leaving trash on road flanks or throwing it to water bodies after having food or refreshment en-route. Local participation too matters in preventing such littering, he said.

Top court says laws have teeth but pollution control boards are slack

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and district administration are equally responsible for piling up of toxins in connection with the functioning of the now shutdown Vedanta's copper smelting plant in Thoothukudi, says Supreme Court Bench

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and the Thoothukudi district administration were "equally responsible" for the piling up of toxins in connection with the functioning of the now shutdown Vedanta's copper smelting plant, saying pollution regulators in the country are singularly "slack" in using their powers under the law.

"The problem in this area [anti-pollution statutes] in our country is not the absence of law, but the absence of implementation. Pollution control boards do not have the staff, the motivation and then there are other things... The problem is you people do not exercise your powers under these specific laws," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud addressed senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, appearing for the TNPCB.

A private security guarding the main gate of Sterlite Industries copper plant, a unit of Vedanta Resources, in Tamil Nadu. FILE PHOTO

Justice J.B. Pardiwala, an Associate Judge on the three-judge Bench with Justice Manoj Misra, said the TNPCB and the district administration were "equally responsible for creating the situation" in Thoothukudi.

Justice Pardiwala read out from a court order which said "neither the TNPCB nor the district administration took effective steps to abate the nuisance. Rather, the slackness in the approach of the State Pollution Control Board and the district administration led to the flooding of Thoothukudi town... the district administration could not have pleaded ignorance because the quantity of slag dumped was a small pillock and visible to any passer-by".

The court was hearing Vedanta's appeal to reopen the plant, which was closed down in 2018 after the State Pollution Control Board and authorities refused to renew their consent to operate, citing grounds of pollution.

The CJI questioned the TNPCB on the closure of the plant on the ground of "undefined violations".

"Industry is bound to comply with the law. Industry cannot say 'I will only address such objections which you [TNPCB] happen to spot and raise'. But at the same time, you [TNPCB] cannot close an industry on unspecified violations... Closure affects investment," Chief Justice Chandrachud pointed out.

Mr. Vaidyanathan said his client had not revoked a valid consent. The consent had expired at the time.

"Their consent to operate had come to an end. It was their application for renewal of consent that was declined by me," he argued.

A.P. Police foil Cong. protest; detain party leaders

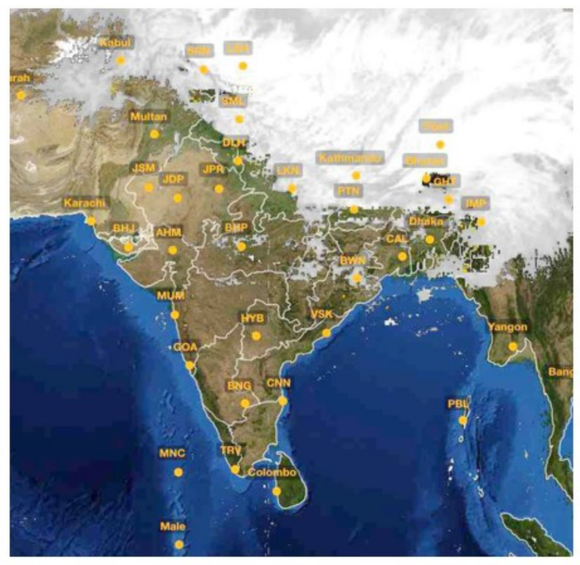
The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Y.S. Sharmila, along with around 40 party leaders and cadres, was detained in Guntur while she was on her way to the Secretariat as part of the 'Chalo Secretariat' protest. The call was given by the party to highlight the plight of the unemployed youth in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday.

A large posse of police deployed to thwart the protest, swooped on Ms. Sharmila and others and shifted them to the Mangalagiri town police station. They were released after two hours. Earlier in the day, the party office in Vijayawada turned into a citadel with a large posse of police deployed outside the premises.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.5	22.0	Kozhikode	—	35.5	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	31.0	19.7	Kurnool	—	37.9	23.1
Aizawl	1	30.5	16.7	Lucknow	—	25.8	13.6
Allahabad	2	29.0	18.9	Madurai	—	37.6	23.6
Bengaluru	—	33.4	21.8	Mangaluru	—	32.6	23.2
Bhopal	—	27.7	14.6	Mumbai	—	30.0	21.3
Bhubaneswar	—	36.2	23.0	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	24.7	9.2	New Delhi	—	26.2	10.8
Chennai	—	34.2	23.8	Patna	3	27.8	18.1
Coimbatore	—	35.6	23.6	Port Blair	—	29.9	21.8
Dehradun	—	23.7	8.6	Puducherry	—	32.4	24.5
Gangtok	—	12.3	7.6	Pune	—	33.0	15.4
Goa	—	31.5	19.7	Raipur	—	32.4	20.8
Guwahati	1	22.6	14.6	Ranchi	—	27.6	17.2
Hubballi	—	35.0	17.0	Shillong	—	15.4	11.1
Hyderabad	—	34.6	19.9	Shimla	—	16.0	4.4
Imphal	6	24.1	14.3	Srinagar	—	9.8	-1.0
Jaipur	—	25.8	15.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.8	26.2
Kochi	—	32.2	26.4	Tiruchi	—	36.9	24.0
Kohima	—	20.7	10.4	Vijayawada	—	34.4	22.8
Kolkata	—	28.0	22.5	Visakhapatnam	—	30.6	24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	.17	.38	167	115	
Bengaluru	9	.77	.37	136	184	
Chennai	3	.20	.62	118	128	
Delhi	.28	102	.61	167	187	
Hyderabad	5	.31	.34	157	124	
Kolkata	.11	.56	.44	135	120	
Lucknow	4	.47	.42	135	148	
Mumbai	.11	.28	.19	123	111	
Pune	108	151	112	56	65	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.49	.26	94	120	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 362 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

LS polls: JD(S) likely to get three seats, talks on for one more

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP is likely to meet the demand of the Janata Dal (Secular) for three parliamentary seats in the Old Mysore region while discussion is on for another seat.

The seat-sharing discussion among the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners on Thursday took place at a meeting between the former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

While Mr. Kumaraswamy refused to divulge details of the discussions, JD (S) sources said the BJP had agreed to share Hassan, Mandya, and Kolar Lok Sabha seats while the decision on Tumakuru, Bengaluru Rural, and Chickballapur seats would be taken next week. "The JD(S) is likely to get one of these three seats," sources said.

JD(S) Karnataka president H.D. Kumaraswamy and his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Hassan is currently represented by JD(S) member Prajwal Revanna while Mandya is represented by BJP-backed Independent Sumalatha Ambareesh and Kolar is represented by BJP member S. Muniraju. The other three seats that are under discussion are represented by BJP members.

The purported agreement on Thursday comes in the backdrop of hectic parleys made by Ms. Ambareesh urging the BJP to retain the Mandya seat for itself. She had met top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to impress upon them to not let go of the Mandya seat. A few BJP leaders, including the former Hassan legislator Preetham Gowda and former K.R. Pet legislator K.C. Narayan Gowda, had also urged the BJP leadership to keep the Hassan and Mandya seats for the BJP.

Voices of dissent

JD(S) sources said Mr. Kumaraswamy had requested Mr. Shah to silence the critics of the alliance within the BJP since it would send confusing signals among the cadres.

Airbrushed song at yatra 'backfires' on Kerala BJP

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A campaign song portraying the 'Central government' as corrupt has arguably become a major political gaffe for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kerala.

The party's publicity arm had adopted the song as an anthem for the BJP State president K. Surendran's campaign tour, Kerala Padayatra, which commenced from Kasargod recently.

The montage song, set to rousing martial music, appeared to backfire on the BJP after it turned out that it was a hastily airbrushed version of a 2013 song that targeted the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance at the Centre. The faux pas drew merciless scrutiny on social and mainstream media.

A reportedly enraged BJP State leadership demanded that heads roll for the bungling, which it felt had destroyed the party's message discipline.

The BJP also feared the comical aspect of the song's unintended message had cut through to average voters, ostensibly casting Mr. Surendran's campaign tour under a sarcastic light. Furthermore, a campaign poster which declared that Mr. Surendran would lunch with 'SC and ST leaders' also came back to haunt the BJP. It lent ammunition to political rivals to assail the BJP for allegedly sporting a 'casteist mentality'.

The national leadership appeared loath to dismantle the party's publicity architecture in Kerala at the instance of a incensed State leadership.

Madras HC pulls up Kalakshetra for not acting on complaints

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

It is a blight on Kalakshetra Foundation to have not addressed effectively and promptly the allegations of sexual harassment of students, the Madras High Court has said.

It ordered immediate consideration of recommendations made by an independent inquiry committee headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge K. Kannan.

Inquiry report

Justice Anita Sumanth had called for a copy of the inquiry report at the instance of senior counsel R. Vaigai representing seven students who wished to remain anonymous and wanted to be identified only as XYZ even in the court proceedings. After perusing the report, the judge

Kalakshetra Foundation at Thiruvanmiyur in Chennai.

expressed shock over the nature of the allegations levelled.

"The report of the independent committee is graphic in regard to the nature of sexual harassment that has been alleged. The allegations are distasteful to say the least and extremely disturbing. The committee has made a series of recommendations, and some are reiterated in this order for urgent consideration by the management of Kalakshetra," the judge wrote.

Justice Anita Sumanth orders immediate consideration of recommendations made by an independent inquiry committee

The committee had recommended a ban on the entry of students into the teachers' quarters with the only exception being social occasions and community celebrations.

It had also stated that as a portal of higher learning, the emphasis at Kalakshetra should be on deep learning and perfection of the art form before the students embark on public performances.

"The obsession for performance must be curtailed in preference to the student polishing the art form and one's exposition of the same. As a consequence, students may be dissuaded from participating in inland and global tours for public performances," the committee had said and recommended automation of attendance registers as well as entry and exit of all staff members.

"The practice of calling upon repertory artists to step in for a teacher who is absent should be eliminated. A clear demarcation must be drawn between the repertory and its artists on the one hand, and the academic section of the college on the other. Only post graduate students and interns must assist in the academic curriculum," the inquiry committee had said.

Maritime strength plays a key role in achieving *Viksit Bharat* by 2047: Dhankhar

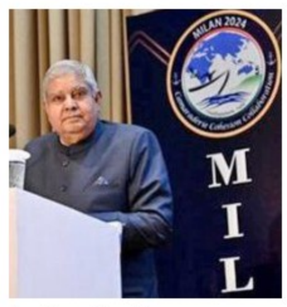
The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that "protection of global supply chains, avoiding of deeper regional tensions and exploitation of blue economy" are global concerns that can no longer be ignored.

Mr. Dhankhar was speaking after inaugurating an international maritime seminar organised as part of naval exercise MILAN-2024 by the Indian Navy at the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) base on Thursday.

The seminar, with the theme, 'Partners across oceans: collaboration, synergy, growth', featured an array of discussions.

Addressing the seminar, where delegates from



Jagdeep Dhankhar

friendly foreign navies participated, Mr. Dhankhar said, "MILAN is turning out to be a delivery platform for meaningful dialogue to tackle the future challenges."

"*Milan* is a Hindi word, meaning a sublime meeting of the mind, heart and soul. In 2015, SAGAR, an acronym for 'Security and Growth for all in the Region', was initiated," he said.

"India is the fifth largest global economy. By the turn of the decade, India will be the third largest, ahead of Japan and Germany. We have set our sights on becoming a fully developed nation by 2047 though *Viksit Bharat* [Developed India] initiative. India's maritime strength will be critical to our marathon to 2047," he observed.

"Maritime boundaries are not mere lines on a map, these are the lifelines of nations, channels through which commerce flows, connecting economies and fostering growth," he said.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R. Harikumar, naval chiefs of friendly foreign countries, ambassadors, and high commissioners took part.

Revanth govt. to give LPG refill for ₹500 and free power soon

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to start implementation of two more guarantees, ₹500 an LPG cylinder and free power up to 200 units to families with white ration cards tentatively from February 27 or February 29.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed the officials concerned to make arrangements for the implementation of the two guarantees after a review meeting on Thursday with the Cabinet sub-committee on the six guarantees given by the Congress in the run up to the State Assembly elections. The development comes within a day after the Chief Minister assured at Kodangal public meeting on Wednesday that two more guarantees would be implemented in a week.

He wanted the officials to ensure that eligible beneficiaries who submitted their applications during the Praja Palana were covered under the two schemes.

The Congress government had put in place two guarantees - free bus travel for women and enhancement of coverage under Aarogyasri from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh within two days of taking over the reins in the State.

Mr. Reddy enquired with the Civil Supplies department officials about the scope for implementation of LPG cylinders at subsidised prices as direct benefit transfer scheme.

Mr. Reddy was particular that the Gruha Lakshmi scheme for providing 200 units free to eligible families was implemented in a transparent manner.

Karnataka RS poll candidate booked on bribery charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Multi-millionaire real estate baron D. Kupendra Reddy, in the fray for the Rajya Sabha election from Karnataka from BJP-JD(S) alliance, and his associates have been booked for bribery and undue influence following a complaint to the Vidhana Soudha police on Tuesday.

Based on the complaint filed by Ravikumar P. (Ravi Ganiga), Mandya MLA, the Vidhana Soudha police have charged Mr. Reddy and his associates under Sections 171 E (bribery) and 171 F (undue influence at an election) of the IPC.

Mr. Ravikumar had earlier met Bengaluru Police Commissioner and submitted a petition in this regard seeking legal action.

In his complaint, Mr. Ravikumar said Mr. Reddy was the second candidate from the BJP-JD(S) alliance with not enough votes to win the election. Since there is less chance of him winning the election, he had resorted to wooing the Congress members through money or pressure to vote for him, he alleged.

He had even roped in his associates, including city-based hotelier identified as Ravi, to approach MLA Latha Mallikarjun offering money and threats to vote for him, Mr. Ravikumar alleged. The accused also met Ms. Latha's husband with a similar offer, it is alleged. Similar attempts have been made with MLA Darshan Puttannaiah, with the accused sending his party workers to stalk the MLAs to create fear and threats, Mr. Ravi alleged in his complaint.

'No need to amend Wildlife Protection Act'

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav on Thursday said that there is no need for any amendment in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to address human-wildlife conflict as the chief wildlife warden was empowered to trap, catch, and, if necessary, shoot wildlife according to Section 11 of the Act. He also said CWWs are empowered to declare wild boars as vermin, and therefore the law does not need to be amended.

The next frontier

Government must keep the regulatory environment of space sector clear

Space used to be the final frontier but its increasing exploration has changed that, replacing a romantic notion with narratives with financial, socio-economic, and geopolitical implications. Space technologies and space flight are expensive, risky endeavours that only national agencies were suited to engage in for decades. This is no longer true as private sector players are increasingly expected to complement, augment, and/or lead the way by identifying market opportunities and innovating rapidly. India started on this path in 2020 with state-led reforms that opened its space sector to private companies, then releasing the 'Geospatial Guidelines' and later the 'Indian Space Policy', creating the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), and passing the Telecommunications Act 2023 that, among other departures from the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, provided for satellite broadband services. On February 21, the government opened the door to 100% foreign direct investments (FDI) in the "manufacturing of components and systems/sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user segment" – up to 74% in satellite-manufacturing, operations, and data products; and up to 49% in launch vehicles, space ports, and their corresponding systems. As such, by stepping out of the way and allowing substantial FDI via the automatic route, the government has taken the logical next step in spurring the contributions of private space flight operators, technology-developers, and application designers to the national space economy, in line with ambitions outlined in the Space Policy.

The decision gives India the ability to take advantage of its less vitiated foreign ties to catch up with China's more advanced position as a space power. While the Chinese programme benefits from not-inconsiderable private sector participation, its ability to attract foreign investments is hamstrung by its belligerent foreign policies and the Xi Jinping administration's plan to modernise the military by, among other things, adapting civilian technologies for military use, though other countries, including the U.S., have similar policies. According to IN-SPACe chairman Pawan K. Goenka, a "significant" slice of the $37.1 billion that the space sector raised worldwide in 2021-23 went to space start-ups. Against this extended backdrop, new investments can add to India's space economy by improving start-ups' access to talent and capital; effecting a better balance between upstream and downstream opportunities, versus the current skew in favour of the former; boosting local manufacturing; and improving investor confidence. Finally, to sustain these winds of change, the government must keep the regulatory environment clear, reduce red tape, increase public support, and ease Indian companies' ability to access foreign markets.

Death of dissent

Putin's is not a sustainable style of governance

The death of Alexei Navalny, who was serving sentences adding up to more than 30 years on various charges, in a remote prison in Russia's Arctic region, is a chilling reminder of the status of dissent in the state Vladimir Putin has built. For years, Navalny was the Kremlin's most prominent critic. He survived a poisoning attack in 2020 and was taken to Germany for treatment. He later returned to Russia to "fight for freedom", only to be imprisoned again. The reason for his death is still unknown. After the poison attack, he did have several health problems. His lawyers had complained about his not getting proper treatment in jail and he had staged hunger strikes. His wife Yulia Navalnaya said Mr. Putin "killed my husband" and vowed to continue his fight. Whatever the reason for his death, the Russian state cannot absolve itself of this tragedy. Russian authorities were hell bent on destroying the political opposition that Navalny had built. In Russia's managed system, there are opposition parties that the Kremlin tolerates and there are dissidents who are treated as enemies of the state. Navalny, who started his political activism as a far-right ethno-nationalist, fell into the second category. Boris Nemtsov, another opposition politician who also fell into the second category, was shot dead in 2015 in Moscow.

President Putin, who effectively has run Russia for 24 years, and has plans to extend it by six more years through this year's election, did not face any major political threat from Navalny. Mr. Putin's approval ratings remain high, according to independent polls such as those by the Levada Center. The election fray is tightly managed – two of the candidates who were critical of the Ukraine war were barred from contesting, while Mr. Putin's rivals are actually praising his leadership. Navalny was sentenced for decades and there was no scope for organised protests. Still, the fact that he had to die like this in a prison suggests the extent of the state's fear of voices of dissent. Three of Navalny's lawyers are in jail, while two others are in exile. By keeping Navalny in jail, the state wanted to send a message to its critics – fall in line or face the consequences. And Navalny, who chose to go back to Russia even after the poison attack, paid the supreme price for his activism. The Kremlin is centralising more and more powers in its hands, while the country is fighting a prolonged war abroad. The state does not want any voices of criticism or organised protests. It may have established order through fear as of now, but Russia's own history suggests that this is not a sustainable model of governance.

In a tough world, the beacon of U.K.-India strategic ties

Admiral Sir Ben Key

is First Sea Lord and the Chief of Naval Staff, Royal Navy

Outward facing, mercantile and modern societies, our nations – the United Kingdom and India – have much in common. Although separated by thousands of miles, we are inherently connected by the ocean, the world's great global commons. Trade in food and goods underwrites our mutual prosperity, supporting the lives and livelihoods of so many. Global trade is predominantly a maritime activity, and this remains a fundamental truth in the Information Age too. But, today, our reliance on the maritime is only increasing, with the recognition that the data supporting online banking and capital flows also moves via underwater cables.

Both our national and maritime strategies are inescapably intertwined. Our nations need to secure, and make free from aggression and exploitation, the global lifelines of goods and resource that flow across the seas and on which our economies rely. But the norms of behaviour upon the seas – norms which have enabled globalisation to flourish, and the wider rules-based International Order of which they are a part – are all increasingly under threat, from the Black Sea to the Red Sea to the South China Sea.

Operation Prosperity Guardian

Instability, conflict, or aggressive and threatening actions are impacting not only those who seek to work in or pass through these waters but also the international community. Local actions are having global ramifications, affecting the movement of goods and food that are vital for life and livelihoods. It is why, in December 2023, the United Kingdom, the United States and other partners joined in Operation Prosperity Guardian to defend and protect commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The Houthi attacks are indiscriminate and putting at risk the lives of innocent seafarers who seek to make their livelihood at sea. In doing so, the Houthis are risking the stability of the very maritime trade routes that supply food and aid to Yemen and are the lifeblood of all our economies. I am pleased that we are working alongside the Indian Navy too to address these threats to the free movement of global trade.

The Houthi's use of violence in pursuit of their objectives has an obvious synergy with Russia's illegal war in Ukraine.

There is a need for like-minded proponents of peace and prosperity to sail together in today's unstable world

The U.K., India, and the world have a common interest in ensuring this wanton violence and disregard for international law are not allowed to become normalised.

The Ukraine conflict

This week marks two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which began in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea. In 2022, the Russian 'special military operation' planned to surround Kyiv within three days, bring down the government within a week, and subjugate most of the country in less than a month. In all these objectives, Russia has failed.

Over the last two years, Ukraine has persevered as a sovereign and independent nation. It stands as a sentinel for democracy and freedom. Its armed forces have regained 50% of the territory illegally seized by Russia since February 2022. They have taken the fight to the Black Sea Fleet and, utilising novel and innovative tactics, have destroyed or damaged numerous ships, pushing the Russian Navy ever further east. This has reopened maritime corridors, enabling the flow of grain exports which are the lifeblood of the Ukrainian economy and a source of global food security.

The U.K. has supported Ukraine continuously and will provide £2.5 billion in military aid in 2024-25, making for a total of almost £12 billion in military, humanitarian, and financial support to Ukraine since 2022. We will remain steadfastly by their side until they prevail.

In this more unstable, more uncertain age, the need to invest in our strategic relationships is clearer than ever. I am heartened, therefore, by the great strides the U.K. and India are making together.

A shift in the centre of gravity of the global economy is already under way and by 2050 it will sit firmly in the Indo- Asia-Pacific. The U.K.'s national prosperity is intrinsically linked to international markets and having a voice and presence within them is essential; the establishment in 2023 of the U.K. tilt to the Indo-Asia-Pacific as a permanent pillar of policy is, therefore, hugely welcome.

The possibilities for global prosperity cannot be understated and the importance of the Indo-Asia Pacific, not just to the United Kingdom, but to the world, has never been clearer.

Stronger defence ties

The rapid deepening of the U.K.-India defence partnership has, therefore, been most welcome and the levels of interaction between British and Indian forces are higher than in many years. I have been particularly grateful for the leadership and the support of the Chief of the Indian Navy, Admiral R. Hari Kumar. Since the visit of our Carrier Strike Group during its inaugural deployment in 2021, there have been record numbers of U.K. ship visits and the welcome, hospitality and support extended to them by India has been excellent.

They will be followed by our Littoral Strike Group as it enters the Indo-Asia Pacific later this year to conduct training, exercises, and operations with our partners. The Carrier Strike Group will be deployed again to the region in 2025 and we are seeking opportunities to further build our shared U.K. and Indian operational capabilities during this phase.

Our defence industrial partnership is, similarly, going from strength to strength. From electric warship propulsion to complex weaponry to jet engines, our work, collectively, is helping to share understanding, knowledge, and expertise. And our military education ties, 75 years in the making, are to be boosted this year too with officers from all three services of the Indian Armed Forces joining British service academies as instructors, sharing their experiences with future military leaders, and gaining ones to bring back to India, all of which make us collectively stronger.

History teaches us that strategies of isolationism or coercion have rarely produced strong coalitions. Rather, it is our friends, partners and allies who will be our source of support and strength against the challenges that we face, and who will uphold the values that we champion. The rules-based International Order has kept the peace for decades and it is incumbent on us, as like-minded proponents of peace and prosperity, to continue to advocate for it. In this ever more unstable world, the U.K. is fortunate to have India as a good friend.

It is the conditioning of the Agniveer that merits attention

Shashank Ranjan

is a retired Indian Army officer (colonel). He currently teaches at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonepat, Haryana

The government's move to introduce a reform in defence policy, by changing the way young men and women are recruited to the Indian armed forces was a surprise. The Agnipath scheme, as it is known, was announced on June 14, 2022, and is in force with the initial batch of Agniveers, as these young men and women are called, already inducted in armed forces units after completion of their recruit training.

The scheme runs on a short-service manpower model, where 75% of the recruited soldiers will leave the service in four years. However, 25% of them will be allowed to continue. There are strong indications that the retention in service is likely to be enhanced to 50%. However, the government has still to take an official stand on this. The scheme has drawn criticism, especially from the veteran community, citing several grounds. The veterans have expressed their disapproval mainly due to the sense of belonging that they continue to nurture towards the organisation that they served in, and not for any partisan leanings. The armed forces are unique in the sense that the serving community always looks up to the veterans as a guiding light, in the true sense of regimentation.

Still early days

Notwithstanding these points and since the ship called Agnipath has already set sail and is into its voyage, a stocktaking of the challenges at hand is necessary. The initial feedback on Agniveers from the units in terms of motivation levels, intelligence, physical standards is by and large positive. However, it is too early to attempt any fair assessment on the pros and cons.

In order to seamlessly incorporate the Agniveers into the milieu of military units, it is important that the respective unit commanders are clear about the challenges ahead. These challenges are beyond the individual capacities of the Agniveers, in which they are likely to excel for the sake of being retained. The challenges are more intangible in nature and warrant the attention of the leaders.

Incorporating the Agniveers seamlessly into the milieu of military units is linked to unit commanders being clear about the challenges

A military unit is eventually expected to deliver when it is in combat. Preparations for the desired outcomes in the face of an adversary have to go on relentlessly and do not wait for testing combat situations. As the cliché goes, 'only a good dressing room atmosphere can ensure the players perform well during the game'. Similarly, the unit commanders will have to focus on the psychological assimilation of the Agniveers into the unit fabric and ensure that they are moulded into becoming effective team players.

The above board performance of a unit in combat has always been an attribute of the trinity of '*naam-namak-nishaan*' or the unit's *izzat* (pride). In turn, unit pride flows out of unit cohesion, which is a hallmark of an excellent military unit which, in turn, is contingent on the human element of the individual soldier. The basis for soldier discipline and, thereby, his motivation and psychology as a team player is always about his/her individual conscience and character. It is this character that harmonises relationships and builds up unit camaraderie which gives a soldier strength in the battlefield.

S.L.A. Marshall, in his publication, *Men Against Fire: The Problem of Battle Command*, observes, "I hold it to be one of the simplest truths of war that the thing which enables a soldier to keep going with his weapon is the near presence or the presumed presence of a comrade."

Combat and technology

Technology-based measures, in terms of weapon platforms and systems, can always be confronted with technology-based counter-measures. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict or, maybe, setbacks by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in the Israel-Hamas conflict, have vindicated the point that the human element and conventional methods of combat shall outlive modern technology, which can only complement the age-old methods and tactics. The fact that the Agniveers possess a better technical threshold should not make the leaders complacent. The said attributes will be futile unless these men and women are trained to live a life of camaraderie, keeping in mind the larger goal of unit cohesion.

Focus on the human element

The facets of the human element in the Agniveers need to be addressed by the leaders who have been assigned the responsibility of training and assessing these impressionable minds. Given the average annual numbers of not more than 40 to 45 Agniveers being inducted in a unit in a year, the unit-level implications of a well-groomed human element is likely to show only after sometime. However, the value-based nurturing, based on unit ethos, needs to commence from now and the onus of planning and executing this rests on the unit leadership. Irrespective of technological advancements in the realm of warfare, the character of a soldier to stand by his flanking mate can never be undermined.

On the issue of competition for retention versus rejection, the Agniveers would try to outdo each other. But a tendency of one-upmanship amongst the Agniveers would go contrary to the goal of developing unit cohesion. The onerous challenge would be to arrest any germination of an undesired personality trait among the lot given that 25% of the Agniveers will stay back. If not conditioned, this could evolve into something serious and affect the health of the unit in the long run.

Finally, the government should consider introducing a test of 'psychology' as part of the recruitment process, in line with the methodology used in the selection of officers in the military. This will help the unit commander manage the human resources available and facilitate the better grooming and assessment of Agniveers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fali Nariman

In the passing away of Fali Sam Nariman, India has lost an exceptionally dedicated warrior-general of constitutional democracy. I was fortunate to have been his guest in New Delhi, in January 2020. Both he and his wife, Bapsi Nariman, were good hosts. He graciously presented to me a signed copy of his autobiography, *Before Memory Fades*. And he wrote: "I have lived and flourished in a Secular India.... In the fullness of time, if God Wills, I would also like to die in a Secular India."

Angara Venkata Girija Kumar,
Chennai

Fali Nariman's contributions to Indian constitutional law through his extraordinary legal acumen and forceful arguments will remain a great guide for budding legal professionals. Being a crusader for judicial independence and a staunch defender of fundamental rights, he never shied away from speaking the truth to the elected rulers. Fali Nariman's engagement as a public intellectual through his persistent writings on the Indian Constitution and the legal system while being a moral guide to the judicial and legal fraternity will always be remembered.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Fali Nariman was a constitutional zealot, His books on law were treatises and his courtroom etiquette was distinct and distinguished. He was an amiable lawyer whose genial smile never left him, either in court or off it. Surely and truly, Fali S. Nariman, a legal eagle, cannot be cloned. The cavernous void that he has left behind in the corridors of justice cannot be filled-in that easily.

K. Pradeep,
Chennai

The tributes paid by Justice Nariman to the late Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer hold true: "Some judges are compared to tall oak trees — but it is only the tallest oaks, like a Denning in the U.K., or a Krishna Iyer in India — who can indulge even with some success in that delicate and unpredictable exercise: of laying down the law in accordance with justice."

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

Ameen Sayani

At a time when the radio was the only medium of entertainment at home, Ameen Sayani's ebullient and cheerful voice was a much anticipated one that one heard every Wednesday on 'Binaca Geetmala'. Despite the shortwave AM broadcast (there was no FM) which was prone to wavy noise in the 41 m band on Radio Ceylon earlier and then the SLBC, the programme was very popular. It would have topped the chart had there been a ratings system then.

A.V. Narayanan,
Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu

I am haunted by my evergreen years of adolescence when I would be glued to my transistor, busy fine-tuning the Radio Ceylon Station an hour in advance so as to enjoy an enchanting programme. If by chance, the needle on the radio slipped this side or that, it was a Herculean task to retrieve the station. It was Ameen Sayani's art and craft of a charming narration and presentation that made the programme so fascinating.

P.K. Sharma,
Barnala, Punjab

Ameen Sayani's emergence as a radio broadcaster in the early 1950s coincided perfectly with the beginning of the golden era of Hindi film songs. With an unusual style of presentation, which he laced with warmth and humour, as well as excellent modulation of his silky voice, he soon became the heartthrob of millions, casting a spell that extended beyond borders. Wednesday evenings then were incomplete without listening to his programme on Radio Ceylon. He will be missed.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Should India have regional benches of the Supreme Court?

PARLEY

Justice Govind Mathur

is former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court

Sanjoy Ghose

is a senior advocate based in Delhi

Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice informed the Lok Sabha that the Law Ministry has accepted its recommendation to establish regional benches of the Supreme Court across India. However, it pointed out that the apex court has been "consistently" rejecting the idea and that the matter is sub judice. Should India have regional benches of the Supreme Court? Justice Govind Mathur and Sanjoy Ghose discuss this in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik.** Edited excerpts:

A seminal 2011 study conducted by the legal scholar Nick Robinson showed that a majority of the cases before the Supreme Court are from High Courts close to Delhi. Will the establishment of regional benches reduce such a geographical bias and make it easier for more Indians to access justice?

Justice Govind Mathur: Initially during my tenure as a judge, I used to be opposed to the idea of regional benches since it could lead to more divergent views and adversely affect our justice delivery system. However, now, after examining the issue from the eyes of the common man, I do feel that such benches are the need of the hour. People are less willing to accept arbitrary or unjust actions of the state and its agencies and are increasingly approaching courts of law. The outcome of such cases demands further adjudication by the Supreme Court. It becomes practically impossible for people living in States far away from Delhi to agitate their cause. It is easy to say that the presence of a litigant is not required in appellate forums but the reality is that every litigant wishes to visit his lawyer and witness court proceedings involving his case.

Sanjoy Ghose: While a majority of the cases filed in the Supreme Court do arise from High Courts close to Delhi, this imbalance will not be rectified by merely constituting regional benches. There is also a possibility of numerous frivolous petitions being filed with easier access to justice. Instead, a mechanism should be put in place to scrutinise the types of petitions that are permitted to be admitted in the top court.

The relative success of virtual hearings by courts during the pandemic indicates that hybrid hearings could well be an alternative to regional benches. Do you think this could be a permanent solution keeping in mind that judges can sometimes be reluctant to entertain hybrid hearings?

The Supreme Court building in New Delhi. AP

SG: The steps taken by the judiciary since the onset of the pandemic to switch to virtual hearings are laudable. Further, the Chief Justice has also indicated that all courts should shift to virtual hearings. However, even today, in many forums such as the Central Administrative Tribunal and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of India, virtual hearing facilities are not used. Many judges also prefer lawyers to be physically present. Therefore, I feel that a mechanism should be put in place that allows preliminary and admission hearings to take place virtually, while final hearings are conducted physically.

GM: I don't think that hybrid hearings can be an effective alternative to regional benches. While the use of technology is good for judicial administration, court management, and handling the case flow, it is not a viable solution for judicial adjudication. The physical hearing of cases helps to maintain objectivity with regard to the propositions advanced before the court. Judges are human beings and suffer from several human limitations. Our open court system plays a vital role in ensuring that a judge maintains the appropriate attitude and demeanour. The presence of lawyers and litigants in a courtroom also helps a judge to work without any fear or favour. Therefore, virtual court facilities should be used only in exceptional circumstances.

A prominent pitch for regional benches is that while such benches discharge appellate functions, the principal bench in Delhi can exclusively focus on constitutional matters. However, in an improved rate of disposal, the Supreme Court last year heard more than 20 Constitution bench cases and delivered judgments in at least 18 of those. Do you think such concerns are still valid?

> India should implement a system comprising a separate court of appeal and courts of cassation. The appellate court should hear only constitutional cases while the cassation courts adjudicates upon appeals arising out of non-constitutional matters.
> SANJAY GHOSE

GM: Last year, the Supreme Court witnessed a 31% increase in the disposal of cases compared to 2022. However, such a disposal rate is negligible when compared to the total pendency of cases. A little more than 80,000 cases are currently pending adjudication out of which 60,000 cases are civil. This cannot be alleviated only through usual methods and is highly dependent upon the efforts and efficiency of the Chief Justice. The establishment of regional benches will increase the number of judges as well as lawyers resulting in a much-needed boost to our judicial system.

SG: I feel that irrespective of the pendency rate, India should take inspiration from France and implement a system comprising a separate court of appeal and courts of cassation – a proposal recommended by the Law Commission of India in its 95th and 229th reports. A permanent appellate court along with several courts of cassation should be established. The permanent appellate court, like in the U.S., should include nine of the senior-most judges from the cassation courts. It should sit *en banc* and hear only constitutional cases while the cassation courts adjudicate upon appeals arising out of non-constitutional matters. At present, the Supreme Court is overburdened with matters such as transfer petitions, arbitral appeals, etc. which it has no business hearing. It would be appropriate that instead, a court of cassation hears such matters.

Opponents argue that regional benches are likely to contribute to a growing body of conflicting precedents resulting in increased litigation. Do you agree?

SG: If there is a separation of the court of cassation from the permanent appellate court, the chances of conflicting decisions would be reduced, as the court of cassation would only apply the decisions of the permanent appellate court. But there may be situations where there are divergent views of the courts of cassation - in those circumstances, the permanent appellate court may resolve the conflict.

GM: I don't agree with this view. Several High Courts have more than one bench. Despite such a structure, there are only a few conflicting decisions. Nowadays, technology has played a pivotal role in keeping judges updated, which helps to maintain uniformity in decisions. From my experience, conflicting or divergent views result from the non-availability of effective assistance and sometimes due to a lack of judicial discipline.

Mr. Ghose, do you think lawyers who cannot afford to relocate to Delhi are disproportionately impacted by the location of the Supreme Court and often bear the brunt of missed opportunities?

SG: Yes. One of the biggest critics of having regional benches has been the Supreme Court Bar. The setting up of regional benches would lead to the Balkanization of the Supreme Court. However, this would lead to a robust Supreme Court Bar at the regional level. We had a similar opposition in Delhi when the jurisdiction of the Tis Hazari Court was divided into different district courts. However, 10-15 years down the line, we see a vibrant District Bar in Saket, Rohini, and Karkardooma. The setting up of regional benches would also lead to greater opportunities and the democratisation of the Bar. It is a welcome step.

At present, Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) constitute over 90% of the Supreme Court's docket. Justice Mathur, does the remedy lie in bringing about reforms in the High Courts instead of establishing regional benches? For instance, should the Supreme Court only admit SLPs where the concerned High Courts have granted certificates for leave to appeal?

GM: Why only the High Courts, the efficiency of all the courts needs to be improved. In the last three decades, although litigation has rapidly increased, we have not seen a proportionate increase in the number of judges. Further, the availability of adequate judicial infrastructure varies from State to State. Even if regional benches are established, certain exclusive powers of the Supreme Court should be retained - its original jurisdiction under Article 131, its advisory jurisdiction under Article 143, and its writ jurisdiction under Article 32 of the Constitution. While the top court is indeed overburdened with SLPs, it would not be correct to have to seek leave from the concerned High Courts or the Tribunals to even lodge an SLP.

NOTEBOOK

Intended messages and their interpretation

It is common for short clips of statements by public figures, often taken out of context, to go viral

Meera Srinivasan

Few things on social media go as viral as short clips of statements by public figures, often taken out of context. In platforms designed to capitalise on our shrinking attention spans, users rarely have the time or patience for context. Even if some may wish to trace a circulating video clip to its original, longer video source, it would have likely gone viral by then, prompting journalists to play catch up, although we may not report on it.

While it is hard to pin motivations based on short clips, the instant reactions they trigger can be interesting and telling. Among other things, they show us how an intended message and its interpretation can be very different while consumed on social media. A case in point is a remark made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Mumbai, last month. "My first advice to you would be, the next time you want to take a holiday, go to Sri Lanka," he said, in the now popular clip. Many social media users in both countries understood this as a fillip for Sri Lanka's tourism industry. Several Sri Lankans, including politicians, cheered the Indian Foreign Minister's "pitch for Sri Lankan tourism" and eagerly re-shared the clip.

Except, Mr. Jaishankar appeared to convey something else, as the longer clip shared on his own X timeline showed. Following his remarks on India's role on the global stage, Mr. Jaishankar took questions from the audience. A participant asked him if the "observed shift" in the geopolitical alignment of India's long-standing regional partners such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and recently the Maldives, towards China, is indicative of "a perceived failure" of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. It was in response to this specific question that Mr. Jaishankar advised the young man to go to Sri Lanka on his next holiday. "Mix with the normal person in Sri Lanka and ask them 'what do you think about India?' You will feel yourself grow with that answer," he said, in the longer clip. He elaborated on how when the rest of the world "turned its back" on Sri Lanka during the island nation's economic crisis in 2022, India was the only country to come forward, committing $4.5 billion, considerably more than what the ongoing International Monetary Fund package entails.

In essence, Mr. Jaishankar was encouraging the audience member to visit Sri Lanka to better understand perceptions of India's crucial outreach. It was more a hat tip to his own government's 'Neighbourhood First' policy than about adding to Sri Lanka's tourism numbers, which Indians are anyway doing. "After you have done your Sri Lanka holiday, please go to Nepal. The export of electricity to India is an enormously rewarding transaction for Nepal," he added soon after. But those points didn't go half as viral, and the part that did could not have hurt New Delhi's interests in this instance.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Tourism Minister Harin Fernando had a novel interpretation of Mr. Jaishankar's comment, and his video clip too went viral. Speaking at a roadshow addressing travel agents in Mumbai recently, Mr. Fernando said: "I think he mentioned if you are travelling somewhere, travel to Sri Lanka because Sri Lanka is a part of India actually".

His comment drew flak for "disrespecting Sri Lanka's sovereignty". In a country where Sinhala nationalists have fiercely opposed Indian intervention in the past, and remain sceptical of Indian interests, Mr. Fernando's remark did not go down well. A political rival went to the extent of saying his statement was punishable by death. Forced to give an explanation, the flustered minister told parliament: "I humbly thanked India for saving Sri Lanka through the last 13-14 months, giving us maximum number of tourists...I went on to elaborate the connection that Sri Lanka has with India - not only in history, [but also in] our words, music, film industry, food. In Kerala, you call it *aappa* (for hoppers), we call it *aappa*..." He sought to give examples of India and Sri Lanka's cultural connect, perhaps hoping that his explanation too would get airtime. But social media had moved on to the next viral clip.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A winter wonderland

A view of snow-covered Gulmarg, a ski resort in Baramulla district of Kashmir. Several parts of Kashmir Valley have been receiving steady snowfall over the last few weeks following a prolonged dry spell that led to a plunge in the inflow of toursists and impacted the business of ski resorts. NISSAR AHMAD

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 23, 1974

Pak. recognises Bangla: Mujib for summit

New Delhi, Feb. 22: Pakistan and Bangladesh recognised each other to-day – 26 months after former East Pakistan wrenched itself away to become a sovereign nation.

The Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Z. A. Bhutto announced the recognition in an address to a joint meeting of Provincial Governors, Ministers and legislators at Lahore in the evening. Less than two hours later Bangladesh reciprocated the move declaring that the recognition was "unconditional".

Iran and Turkey also recognised Bangladesh, it was announced in Teheran and Ankara respectively.

Mr. Bhutto also said that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would reach Lahore to-morrow to join the Islamic summit which began to-day, Radio Pakistan said.

Mr. Bhutto said the Bangladesh delegation would receive a warm welcome. In his opinion, there was no alternative to bringing amity with "our brothers in Bangladesh."

Mr. Bhutto added that a number of Muslim leaders were in Lahore. Some of them had recognised Bangladesh while others had not. Since their arrival, they had been "advising us for reconciliation with Bangladesh."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 23, 1924

Disorder in China

Leafield Oxford (Mid.). Feb. 22: In consequence of the brutal assault recently committed by a Chinese officer and his men upon Mr. Bissell, a British railway official at Fengtai, the British Legation in Peking has made strong and repeated representations to the Peking Government for the apprehension and trial of the culprits, but so far without avail. The Chinese authorities plead that they are unable to trace the officer in question who is doubtless being shielded by high military and political influences.

From Page One

India a bridging power, says Jaishankar

"A lot of what India is trying to do, there are different names, but the idea of a multi-vector policy what in our language what we call *Vishvamitra*, which is like a friend of the world, you will maximise your relationships, that is the direction we are trying to take ourselves and take the world," Mr. Jaishankar said.

Terming the countries of Africa as the 'Southern global South', Tanzanian Foreign Minister Mr. Makamba said they did not think the current global system worked for them. "We see lot of hypocrisy in the way we deal with international issues that concern us. We see double standards. There is tremendous mistrust in the global economic and political architecture."

Talking of the UN Security Council reform, the External Affairs Minister said when the UN came into being, it had approximately 50 members and today there were four times that number. So, it was a common sense proposition that you could not continue the same way when you have four times the members, Mr. Jaishankar said.

"In many cases, the rules have been gamed. We speak about globalisation. The fact is that the world trading rules have been gamed. And we have a lot of our challenges today also emanate from how countries have used that for their benefit at the expense of the international system," he said, adding, "The biggest opposers to UNSC reforms is not a western country."

To the "logjam" at the top of international order, Mr. Jaishankar quipped that "because the system today is not delivering... countries will go out there and find their own solution" which is a less disciplined, fragmented reality, and "if the guys up there aren't delivering you got to do your own thing."

Ex-Governor Malik cries foul after CBI searches

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said: "...If the former Governor tells the truth, then send CBI to his house – this is the Mother of Democracy?..."

Thursday's searches were carried out in Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Baghpat, Noida, Patna, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Barmer, Nagaur and Chandigarh. "...evidence of huge cash deposits, investment in fixed deposits, investment in properties in various cities, digital and documentary evidence, etc. have been found," said an agency official, adding that the premises of some chartered accountants were also covered.

Case registered in 2022

The CBI registered the case on April 20, 2022, following a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government. Among those named were Navin Kumar Choudhary, an IAS officer, as the then chairman of CVPPPL; its then managing director M.S. Babu, directors M.K. Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra, and Patel Engineering. The official said Mr. Choudhary's premises were also searched on Thursday.

The charges of irregularities in the award of civil works worth ₹2,200 crore pertain to the project being executed by the Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Limited. (CVPPPL). As alleged, in the 47th board meeting of CVPPPL, a decision had been taken for re-tender through e-tendering with reverse auction, after the cancellation of the then ongoing tendering process.

However, the agency has alleged the decision was reversed in the 48th board meeting. The contract was awarded to Patel Engineering in 2019.

One dead as Russian skiers get trapped in Gulmarg avalanche

The group was skiing in the higher reaches known as Army Ridge in the tourist town in Baramulla; one injured skier hospitalised; the avalanche was triggered by heavy snowfall in the region since Feb. 17; Khelo Games participants safe

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A Russian skier was killed and another injured after an avalanche struck the ski slopes of Gulmarg at Baramulla in north Kashmir on Thursday.

Officials said a group of six Russian skiers and a local guide were caught in the avalanche on the slopes of Kongdoori, on the upper reaches of Gulmarg, around 1 p.m. They had gone into the red zone, an avalanche-prone area.

"A collaborative effort between the Gulmarg Ski Patrol of the Tourism Department and the J&K Police resulted in the successful rescue of a group comprising six Russian skiers and one local guide following an avalanche at the higher reaches of Gulmarg, known as Army Ridge," an official spokesman said.

Retrieved: A helicopter carries the body of a Russian skier after an avalanche struck Kongdoori slopes trapping several skiers under its debris in Jammu and Kashmir's Gulmarg town on Thursday. PTI

The deceased skier was identified as Anton. The injured person was shifted to a hospital. It took rescue teams around one hour to rescue the skiers from the affected areas. The avalanche was triggered by heavy snowfall observed in the region since February 17. On February 21, a warning for a 'medium danger level avalanche' was issued for Baramulla district.

A spokesperson of the Russian Embassy in New Delhi said it was maintaining constant contact with the local authorities.

Around 125 foreign skiers have reached Gulmarg this month for high-adrenaline skiing at a height of over 4,000 metres.

Winter Games

The incident took place at a time when around 600 athletes had converged in Gulmarg to participate in the Khelo India Winter Games. The spokesperson said the avalanche site is located far from the Kongdoori area, where the 4th Khelo India Winter Games are currently under way.

Nuzhat Gull, Secretary, Sports, J&K government, said all athletes were safe after the avalanche hit Khilanmarg area of Gulmarg, J&K. "All the fixtures are being run as per schedule," she said.

ED sends 7th summons to Kejriwal in excise case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) sent the seventh summons to Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal to appear before the investigating team on February 26 for recording his statement in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

The agency has already approached a special court with a complaint against Mr. Kejriwal, as he did not comply with the previous summonses. The AAP alleged that the "illegal" summons was an act of revenge following the BJP's defeat in Chandigarh mayoral election. The party said the Supreme Court saved democracy in Chandigarh, and as a result, the "BJP-led ED" has sent the summons again.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said Mr. Kejriwal's role in alleged scam is "crucial".

After leaving SP, Maurya floats new political outfit

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Former Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Thursday launched his new political party, the Rashtriya Shoshit Samaj Party (RSSP), in New Delhi.

"To make sure that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is defeated, I am ready to make all sacrifices. The double-engine government BJP is having the audacity to end the reservation of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Backward Classes," Mr. Maurya said.

The launch of the RSSP came days after Mr. Maurya resigned from his MLC seat and the primary membership of the SP.

On February 13, Mr. Maurya had resigned from the post of the party's national general secretary, alleging attempts made by certain leaders of the SP to "weaken" his initiative to unite the backward classes, Dalits and minorities.

India to open diplomatic mission in Albanian capital

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Albania's Foreign Minister Igli Hasani said on Thursday that Albania is planning to open an Embassy in New Delhi while India will soon have a diplomatic mission in Tirana.

Mr. Hasani, who is visiting India to participate in the annual Raisina Dialogue, presented his country as an important location on the 'corridor' that connects Europe with the Asia and urged closer trade ties between the two countries.

"I am glad to know the plans of the Indian government to open a representation in Tirana and we are also planning to open an Embassy very soon in New Delhi," Mr. Hasani said in a statement to the media.

Mr. Hasani's visit to Delhi coincided with the visit of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis who is on a state visit to India. He said the India Middle East Economic Corridor should be pursued despite the ongoing conflict in Gaza. With

Albania's Foreign Minister Igli Hasani attends a panel discussion at the Raisina Dialogue 2024, in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

around 500 km of coastline, Albania is a northern neighbour of Greece and is evidently trying to get onto the connectivity projects bridging India and the European continent.

"Albania is at the crossroads between the European Union and East. Albania is a part of many corridors that link India with the European Union. With Albania becoming one of the fastest growing European economies, we are rapidly moving to foster stronger economic ties with India," said Mr. Hasani.

He mentioned that in 2023, more than 10 million tourists visited Albania, adding, "It is of utmost importance that this momentum between Albania and India is not only preserved but also enhanced."

Albania is at present represented by noted architect Dikshu Kukreja who was appointed as the Honorary Consul General of Albania last year.

Mr. Kukreja said the Albanian language is linked to Sanskrit and the two sides have "many cultural linguistic, and historical ties."

European delegation urges India to support Ukraine mired in war

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The ministers made up 15 of the 21 Foreign Ministers who spoke at Raisina Dialogue

European Ministers gathered for the Ministry of External Affairs' Raisina Dialogue here urged India to reconsider trade and ties with Russia, and to press the case for Ukraine's sovereignty ahead of the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that falls on February 24.

The ministers, that made up a large majority, numbering 15 of the 21 Foreign Ministers speaking at the annual conference, have been meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar separately since Wednesday, as well as during a lunch hosted by him for some of them for the India-Nordic-Baltic forum on Thursday.

In particular, they urged India to join a "Peace Conference" in Switzerland, set to be held shortly, at the request of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky. According to sources, Mr. Jaishankar also discussed this with the Swiss Foreign Minister recently.

"What we have been arguing is that the war of Russia in Ukraine is not only about Ukraine, but also about one country violating the sovereign borders of another country, and that undermines international law and the UN Charter," Latvian Foreign Minister Krišjānis Kariņš told *The Hindu*.

"We think that as European countries and India, as democracies, what we have inherently in common is the understanding that the rule of law must be upheld," he added, urging New Delhi to express more support for Ukraine, where tens of thousands are believed to have been killed, and more than 14 million people displaced.

Since February 2022, the Modi government has abstained from all United Nations resolutions on Ukraine, maintained ties with Russia while sending aid to Ukraine, and has increased India's intake of Russian oil multi-fold, making it the source for a third of India's oil imports.

'Neighbours worried'

Echoing the message given by other European countries during the conference, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said those neighbouring Ukraine are particularly worried about a loss for Ukraine in the conflict.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said the Baltic countries believe that as the Russian forces grow more entrenched in Ukraine's east, Russia could attempt to annex more territory in other countries. In an interview to a U.S. journalist last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin had said that any further "territorial claims" were "absolutely out of the question".

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, German Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office Tobias Lindner said that he sees India's position shifting in terms of diversifying its military hardware procurement from Russia to other countries like the U.S. and Germany.

He also called on India to participate in the upcoming "Peace Conference" in Switzerland, and to "have its voice heard" on the issue.

Sandeshkhali witnesses fresh tensions; Bengal BJP chief removed from village

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Fresh protests erupted in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali on Thursday against alleged "land grabbing" by Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan's brother Sheikh Sirajuddin.

Hundreds of villagers from the Bermajur area of Sandeshkhali took part in the protest. A hut next to a *bhery* (shallow water pond) was also set on fire.

"The police never register our complaints. Whenever we approach the police they ask us to approach Shahjahan and Sirajuddin," a villager said. Protests also erupted in the Jhupkhali area where locals made similar allegations of land grab.

West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar stages a dharna outside the Sandeshkhali police station on Thursday. ANI

'PM may visit district'

During the day, State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar visited Sandeshkhali and sat in protest outside the police station. Tension prevailed as he was removed from the protest site and escorted out of Sandeshkhali.

Earlier, Mr. Majumdar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was likely to visit Barasat in North 24 Parganas district on March 6 and address a women's rally. Sandeshkhali is part of the district. The Prime Minister may also meet some of the women affected by the violence at Sandeshkhali.

Journalist gets bail

The Calcutta High Court granted bail to a TV journalist arrested by the West Bengal Police from Sandeshkhali. Santu Pan, was arrested on February 19.

12 MPs re-elected from 2004-2019 have criminal cases: report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A total of 12 out of 23 Members of Parliament re-elected from 2004 to 2019 have criminal cases against them, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch. Nine of the 12 face serious charges such as murder, attempt to murder and dacoity.

Self-sworn affidavits

The report was prepared after an analysis of the self-sworn affidavits of 23 re-elected MPs from 2004 to 2019.

Of the 17 BJP MPs who were re-elected, seven (41%) had criminal cases against them and all three Congress MPs re-elected faced criminal cases.

The lone re-elected MP from the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) had a criminal case against him as did the MP from Shiv Sena.

Four of the re-elected MPs had declared their educational qualifications to be between Class 10 and 12 while 18 have declared having an educational qualification of graduation or above and one re-elected MP is a diploma holder.

Nineteen of these re-elected MPs are aged between 51 to 80 years and four between 40 to 50 years. Of the 23 re-elected MPs, only three are women.

Rise in assets

The average assets of these MPs was ₹1.52 crore in 2004 and it rose to ₹3.46 crore in 2009, ₹9.85 crore in 2014 and ₹17.51 crore in 2019.

The average asset growth for these 23 re-elected MPs, between the Lok Sabha election of 2004 to 2019 is ₹15.98 crore, the report said.

₹19,000-crore Navy deal for 200 BrahMos approved

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre has accorded approval for procurement of more than 200 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and associated equipment for the Indian Navy at a cost of around ₹19,000 crore, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The missiles will largely be deployed on various warships to enhance overall combat capabilities of the Navy, they said.

It is learnt that the proposal approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security entails acquisition of a mix of BrahMos missiles having a range of around 290 km and the latest extended range variant of the weapon with a range of around 450 km. BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd., an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missiles.

APPEAL

Ms. Tayyaba Sadaf, Daughter of Abu Darda 13 years admitted in Christian Medical College is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of Blood Disorder which is life threatening. The best option for her would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs.14,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Tayyaba Sadaf. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A.Puram and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, You Can Donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI ID: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Centre is unleashing 'financial terrorism': Cong. on I-T action

Party says Modi govt. is trying to hamper poll preparations and denying level playing field; it says ₹65.89 cr. withdrawn by I-T dept. was collected via crowdfunding and membership drive; it claims BJP got ₹335 cr. from donors under ED, CBI scanner

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of unleashing "financial terrorism" on the principal Opposition party to "cripple" its election preparation and deny a level playing field.

Announcing that the Income Tax (I-T) department had withdrawn ₹65.89 crore from the Congress's bank accounts, party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal alleged that the ruling party was attempting to "murder the world's largest democracy" and drag the country into a "dictatorship raj".

The I-T department action is part of an ongoing tax dispute. The department has raised a demand of ₹210 crore against the Congress over an alleged discrepancy in filing IT returns for the 2018-19 assessment year. The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal is hearing the party's appeal against the I-T department's action and has stayed any further withdrawal from the party's bank accounts.

Money matters: Congress leaders K.C. Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh addressing the media on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Account hijacked'

"What does it mean just before Parliament elections? The account of the principal Opposition party has been hijacked by the BJP government. They are stealing our money from the banks," Mr. Venugopal said at a press conference.

He added that the money that was withdrawn had all been collected through crowdfunding and the party's membership drive.

"This is an attack on democratic principles and values. They are trying to shut out the voice of the Opposition. Clearly this is an example of dictatorship. The BJP is dragging the largest democracy in the world to a 'dictatorship raj'. This type of low-level attack has never happened in history. We will fight it out," Mr. Venugopal said.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh drew a parallel with the demonetisation exercise carried out in 2016, before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. "The November 2016 demonetisation had one objective and that is how to prevent prominent political parties from fighting the Uttar Pradesh elections. Similarly, just before 2024 elections, a conspiracy is being hatched to make the Congress financially crippled... This is an attempt to murder democracy," he said.

'Rattled by Nyay Yatra'

Mr. Ramesh said the I-T department's action showed that the BJP government was rattled by the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the farmers' movement, and rising inflation.

He also alleged that the Modi government had collected ₹335 crore in donation from 30 companies that had been searched or were under investigation by the I-T department, the Enforcement Directorate, and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

"Looting Opposition & Blackmailing donors to fill BJP's coffers is a dark phase for our Democracy! We shall fight this tooth and nail – Both in the court of law and in the court of the people!" Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on social media platform X.

At the press conference, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken termed the I-T department's action as "looting" and questioned the timing of the move, given that the tax demand pertained to 2018-19 tax filing.

"The proceedings of taking out our money took place five years afterwards, just two weeks before the elections are to be announced. We will definitely get back our money, but by then the elections would be over," the Congress leader said.

After sealing seat-sharing deal in U.P., hopes rise for INDIA bloc in other States

Sandeep Phukan
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

A day after the Congress and the Samajwadi Party announced a formal seat-sharing deal for Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, there are indications that the Congress could tie up loose ends in other States, including West Bengal.

A breakthrough in Bengal could be a huge morale booster for the bloc that has been smarting from Janata Dal(U) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's switch to the BJP-led NDA last month and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee's ambivalence.

In a positive sign, the Congress-Trinamool talks that had completely broken down, have revived over the last week. According to sources, the Trinamool has set a difficult threshold for the Congress to scale.

It continues to insist that it will only concede two seats to the Congress in Bengal, and in return it wants one seat each in Meghalaya and Assam.

According to sources, talks have been revived even in West Bengal between Cong. and Trinamool

"In the 2019 general election, in the Tura Lok Sabha seat in Meghalaya, the Trinamool got 28% of the votes and the Congress 9%. Therefore we are rightfully asking the Congress to concede the seat to us, while we will work with them in Shillong, where they got 15% votes and we got 6%," a senior Trinamool leader, who is part of the negotiations, said.

In Assam, the Trinamool has demanded two seats, but has conveyed that it will settle for one.

The talks failed earlier broadly because of the persistent attack by Congress State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on the Trinamool leadership and the Congress's refusal to settle for two seats.

Sources indicated that the seat-sharing pact with the Aam Admi Party (AAP) for Delhi, Haryana, and Gujarat is in its final stages. The two parties, however, have already announced that they would be fighting the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab separately.

In Delhi, the two parties are said to have agreed to share the seven Lok Sabha seats between them. While the AAP is likely to contest the South Delhi, West Delhi, North West Delhi, and New Delhi seats, the Congress will be fielding candidates from the Chandni Chowk, East Delhi, and North East Delhi constituencies.

The Congress is also likely to give one seat to the AAP in Haryana and two in Gujarat. In Gujarat, apart from Bhavnagar, the AAP wants to contest the Bharuch seat, but former Congress leader Ahmed Patel's daughter is also a contender.

In Bihar, too, the seat division between the INDIA bloc allies is expected any time soon, said sources. The RJD is expected to keep 30 seats for itself, dividing the remaining 10 seats between the Congress and the Left parties.

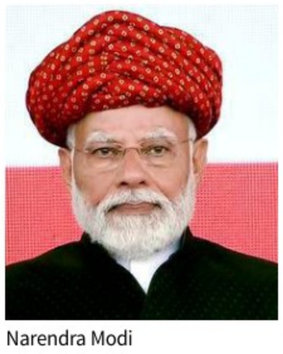
Make Amul world's largest dairy brand, Modi tells farmers

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday exhorted dairy farmers in Gujarat to make Amul "the world's largest dairy brand".

Speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, which sells dairy products under the Amul brand name, he highlighted Amul's current status as the world's "eighth largest dairy". He said his government would support farmers and help in expanding Amul to "make it the largest dairy producer in the world".

"While the global dairy sector is developing at 2% per annum, India's dairy sector is developing at 6%," he said, while addressing thousands of farmers who attended the event.



Narendra Modi

He described Amul as one of the most successful brands of post-Independent India. He added that Amul helped women and farmers, "who are its real beneficiaries".

"We have announced new ways to save indigenous breeds based on research carried out under the National Livestock Mission. We also decided to extend financial aid to help put wastelands to use as pastures," he said, listing measures of his government to help the farmers.

SKM pledges to mobilise farmers nationwide and hold talks for action plan

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Call given to observe February 26 as 'Quit WTO Day' through protests and parking tractors on highways

As the stand-off between the Centre and farmers continues, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) announced on Thursday that it would mobilise farmers nationwide with a slew of programmes in support of its demands.

An SKM meeting was held here a day after 21-year-old Shubhkaran Singh was killed at the Khanauri border point of Punjab and Haryana when protesting farmers were attempting to resume their march from Punjab to Delhi.

SKM leaders said the Punjab government should lodge an FIR under Section 302 (charges of murder) against Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and State Home Minister Anil Vij and the police, over the death of the young farmer. They also demanded a judicial probe by a Supreme Court judge into the firing and the damage caused to tractors, which they alleged were damaged by the Haryana Police at the protest site.

It was decided in the meeting that a six-member committee including Hannan Mollah, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Balbeer Singh Rajewal, Yudhavir Singh, Darshan Pal and Raminder Patiala would hold consultations with all former SKM members to chalk out an action plan and to unite all farmer organisations that were part of the SKM.

The leaders said that SKM would observe February 23 as a Black Day by burning effigies and holding demonstrations.

Also, a call was made to observe February 26 as 'Quit WTO Day' by conducting marches and parking tractors on national and State highways as part of the protest.

The SKM has planned to hold a 'Kisan Mazdoor Mahapanchayat' on March 14 at Ramlila ground, New Delhi.

Meanwhile, the Opposition parties in Punjab have blamed the State government for the farmer's death. Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Majithia said Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's failure to register a case against the Haryana Police when they acted against farmers in Punjab on February 13 had led to the killing of Shubhkaran Singh.

Farmers' protests won't impact wheat procurement: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre said it was hopeful of resolving the farmers' protests before the wheat harvest and procurement season, which is set to begin in March.

Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra told pressmen on Thursday that the Centre was willing to hold further talks with farmers on their demands. More than 50% of the wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India is from Punjab and Haryana.

Mr. Chopra said the Centre would address the concerns of farmers. "The government had given an offer to the farmer leaders considering their concerns such as lowering of water table and soil quality. However, they have rejected the proposal," he said. "As told by the Union Agriculture Minister, we are willing for further talks. We are happy to talk to them. Probably, we were not able to communicate the full intent. I think constant communication will help resolve the communication gap," he added.

Record harvest

Mr. Chopra said he was hopeful that the issues would be resolved before the start of the wheat procurement season. Asked if the protest will create any hurdles for procurement, he said, "I don't think it will have any impact."

He said if the weather continues to be the same for the next 10 to 15 days, the Centre is hopeful of a record harvest.

He added that most States will start procurement from March 1-15. "Uttar Pradesh has said it intends to start procurement from March 1," he said.

Akhilesh to join Rahul's Nyay Yatra on February 25

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Thursday announced that its national president, Akhilesh Yadav, will join the Congress's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Agra on Sunday.

"Congress leaders came with an invitation from their party president for our national president, Akhilesh Yadav *ji*, to join the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. We have accepted the invitation, and our president will participate on February 25 in Agra," SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary told *The Hindu*.

The announcement comes a day after the two INDIA bloc parties finalised a seat-sharing agreement for the Lok Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh. The Congress will contest on 17 seats and the SP on the remaining 63.

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Lr. No.Mktg/OSB/2023-24/Rabi Dated: 22.02.2024
e-TENDER NOTICE
PAN India Tenders for supply of 6.63 Crore serviceable old 50kg gunnies to be delivered at various buffer godowns/MLS Points/PPCs of TSCSCL in the Districts of Telangana State for packaging of Paddy during Rabi season of KMS 2023-24 are being called for through Government e-Marketplace Portal of Government of India. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on **28.02.2024** and Tenders will be opened for technical scrutiny on **04.03.2024 after 12.00 noon** onwards and details can be viewed and participated through **https://sso.gem.gov.in.** Contact details: **7995050702, 7995050754 & +91 40-33762222, 23.**
R.O. No: 975-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24 Sd/- VICE CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State
Tender Notice
KIIDC, a Government of Kerala PSU invites offers through two cover e-Tender system from eligible bidders for **DESILTATION OF ARUVIKKARA DAM RESERVOIR ON TURN-KEY METHOD.** Tender Id: 2024_KIIDC_661941_1. Details are available in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kiidc.kerala.gov.in
Managing Director

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Extn. 4402 / 4404. E-Mail : pmd4@tnpl.co.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Nature of Work	Date of publishing Tender document in TNPL/NIC website	Due date
232413 007408	Expression of Interest for Rendering Project Management Consultancy Services for realising Carbon Credit from TNPL Pulpwood Plantations.	01.03.2024	02.04.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL website and NIC portal only. Detailed terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., will be available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1126/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.I,
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
e-TCN No.CE/HWDI/ACCTS-22/21/62, Date : 20/02/2024
Name of the work : Restoration work to the damaged portion of North and South Breakwater. Put to tender value : Rs.4,73,13,031.60 plus GST as applicable. Last Date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 14.03.2024 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Executive Engineer,
Harbour Works Division No.I, PPA
PPA/PR/90/2023-24, Dt.22/02/2024

Government of Tamil Nadu MARAIMALAI NAGAR MUNICIPALITY
TENDER NOTICE
Roc No: 321/2023/E2 Form of contract: Item rate (Two cover system) Dated: 16.02.2024
Bids are invited by the Commissioner, Maraimalai Nagar Municipality or his authorized person for **Designing constructing, erection and commissioning, startup and performance trial run for 6 Months followed by 10 years of O&M of 4.49 MLD and 11.43 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) with selected modern technology in Maraimalai Nagar Municipality in Tamil Nadu on Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Basis (STP-Package I)** at an estimate cost - **Rs.3729.85 Lakhs** under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 / KFW. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** at download and only E-Submission of Tenders will be accepted. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender for a package / Work. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from Engineering section of this office on all working days during office hours.
Important dates

1.	Bid document download from	**23.02.2024 at 10.00 AM**
2.	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	**14.03.2024 at 11.00 AM**
3.	Last date and time for downloading bid documents	**15.04.2024 at 3.00 PM**
4.	Last Date and time for submission of bid document (Online submission)	**17.04.2024 at 3.00 PM**
5.	Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid	**17.04.2024 at 3.30 PM**

In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Date of opening of Price bid will be informed after scrutinizing the Technical bid to the eligible bidders.
Commissioner
DIPR/1059/TENDER/2024 **Maraimalai Nagar Municipality**

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 4545)
ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER
एटीएफ सब-स्टेशन, एटीएफ, वीएसएससी के संवर्धन के सिलसिले में विद्युत कार्य / Electrical works in connection with augmentation of ATF Substation, ATF, VSSC / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/E01/21/2023-2024 Dt. 04.01.2024**
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading : दिनांक 03.03.2024 को 23:00 बजे तक बढाए गए / Extended upto **23:00** hrs on **03.03.2024**
योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे **www.tenderwizard.in/isro** या **www.isro.gov.in** से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.in/isro** or **www.isro.gov.in.**
Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक , सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG,VSSC

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD. 1912
Reg. office:- Block No. 7, Shakti Bhawan, Rampur Jabalpur-482008
CIN: U40109MP2002SGC015120
CGM(RDSS), COF Block, Shakti Bhawan, Rampur, Jabalpur
(Telephone No. 0761-270-2460, 270-2448 & 270-2945), Fax No. 0761-2666080
(Email:- mpez.rrrdss@gmail.com, gmworksez19@gmail.com, webscada.ez@gmail.com)
No.CGM/RDSS/EZ/GM-RDSS/438 Jabalpur, dtd:-16.02.2024
TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited for following works as per tender specifications. The Bids will be received online on the portal **https://mptenders.gov.in** up to date & time as per key dates. The tender will be opened in the office of undersigned as mentioned in tender time schedule (keydates) inpresence of bidders duly authorized representative who may like to be present at the time of opening of tender:-

S. No.	TSNo. (For e-Tendering) Discom-EZ/Pur	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. In Crores)	TENDER FEE (in Rs)	Due date & time of opening of tender online (*)
1	(E-Tender No. 2024_PKVVC_ 333333_1)	Procurement of PKI Digital Signature Software for GIS-EMB MODULE and Complete Integration with EMB Module of GIS	2.00	11,800.00	04.03.2024

For updated / extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in Cover-I & Techno commercial bidin Cover-2) please refer to the online key dates. Other details can be seen in the complete tender documents available on e-portal **https://mptenders.gov.in.**
// **SAVE ENERGY FOR BETTER TOMORROW** //
"बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के निराकरण के लिए 1912 डायल करें"
Chief General Manager (RDSS)

INBRIEF

Elevated road for animals in Kaziranga park gets approval

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved an elevated road over nine corridors used by the animals of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, usually during heavy floods. Announcing this decision in a post on X, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said the NBWL also approved two elevated railway corridors along the southern boundary of Deepor Beel on the outskirts of Guwahati. The beel, a wetland and important bird area, is a Ramsar Site. The 35-km elevated road project, worth ₹6,000 crore, along an existing arterial highway skirting the northern boundary of Kaziranga's core area had been in the offing for years. According to the blueprint submitted to the Union government, the four-lane elevated road will have two tunnels, one with an estimated length of 1.5 km and the other of 600 metres.

Man from Assam killed in BSF firing on Bangladesh border

A 26-year-old man was killed in firing by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on the Assam-Bangladesh border on Thursday. A BSF official said the man, identified as Shahinur Islam of Char Kukurmara village adjoining the international border, was shot fatally while attempting to smuggle cattle to Bangladesh before dawn. "The area falls under the 45th Battalion of the BSF," the official said. The village is in the South Salmara-Mankachar district.

Govt. unveils 4 web portals for news publishers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur on Thursday launched four online portals of the Central Bureau of Communication, the Registrar of Newspapers for India, the New Media Wing, and the Digital Addressable System of the Ministry.

The Minister said the initiative was aimed at ensuring ease of doing business by fostering a more conducive business environment for newspaper publishers and TV channels, enhance transparency and efficiency in government communication, provide easy access to authentic government videos, and create a comprehensive database of local cable operators for streamline regulatory processes in the sector in future.

The four portals include 'Press Sewa' for registration of newspapers and periodicals and 'NaViGate Bharat' for videos on the entire gamut of the government's development-related and citizen welfare-oriented measures. The other portals are for registration of local cable operators and a transparent empanelment, media planning and e-billing system.

X complies with orders from govt. to block accounts, posts

Amid farmers' protest, social media major says Centre directed it to act on specific posts, accounts; says it withheld them in India alone; maintains that freedom of expression should extend to them

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Social media major X, formerly Twitter, has effectively waved the white flag as far as censorship requests from India are concerned.

In its first detailed statement on the Union government's frequent blocking requests, X's Global Government Affairs team posted a defence of its users' freedom of expression – without actually backing it with any new action to protect it.

Against the backdrop of several blocking orders targeting accounts posting about the farmers' protests at the Haryana boundary, this is the first time X has spoken in detail about blocking orders from India.

"The Indian government has issued executive orders requiring X to act on specific accounts and posts, subject to potential penalties including significant fines and imprisonment," the unsigned post on Thursday said.

"In compliance with the orders, we will withhold these accounts and posts in India alone; however, we disagree with these actions and maintain that freedom of expression should extend to these posts."

Social network: Narendra Modi had met X owner Elon Musk in New York during his last U.S. tour. PTI

Karnataka HC case

The company will not do anything new to defend these individuals' freedom of expression, it indicated, referring to a "pending appeal" in the Karnataka High Court against blocking orders. The next hearing is on March 20. During a hearing on Tuesday, the company sought more time to respond to a recent government affidavit.

The company no longer publishes any government blocking order from anywhere in the world, a freeze that started shortly after Elon Musk acquired the social media platform. "Due to legal restrictions, we are unable to publish the executive orders, but we believe that making them public is essential for transparency," X said.

That statement does not hold up to X's own past behaviour: on Lumen Database, the firm would post a list of accounts and handles which were taken down due to government orders under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. But the firm has stopped publishing even these lists, something which the government has not loudly objected to in previous court hearings.

Banned accounts

The banned accounts on X and Facebook of farmer leaders and organisations include that of Sarvan Singh Pandher, coordinator of Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM); Tejveer Singh Ambala, spokesperson of BKU (Shaheed Bhagat Singh); farmer leader Ramandeep Singh Mann; Surjit Singh Phull from BKU Krantikari; farmer leader Harpal Sangha, Ashok Danoda from Haryana; Bhartiya Kisan Union spokesman; Progressive Farmers Front; and Kisan Majdoor Morcha.

Some prominent non-farmers who have expressed their opinions or been a part of the farmers' movement have also been banned on social media, including independent journalist Mandeep Punia, Khalsa Aid's Ravi Singh, and Canadian Punjabi singer Jazzy B.

(With inputs from Nihal Krishan)

Opposition says Centre suppressing voices of truth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After microblogging site X revealed that it had blocked accounts and pulled down posts related to the ongoing farmers' protests on the orders of the BJP-led Union government, the Opposition alleged that democracy was being "murdered" in the country, and all voices were being blanked out

The revelation by X comes after a 21-year-old farmer was killed at the Punjab-Haryana boundary on Wednesday.

Tagging the statement issued by X's Global Government Affairs team, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked how India can be called "mother of democracy" if every voice speaking the truth was suppressed. He asked, "If farmers ask for MSP, shoot them... When the youth ask for jobs, then refuse to even listen to them... Send the CBI to the house of the former Governor for telling the truth... Freeze the bank account of the principal Opposition party – is this the Mother of Democracy?"

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien also accused the government of making a systematic effort to blank out all voices.

CBSE discusses open-book exams for Classes 9 to 12

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) proposed to create open-book tests for students of Classes 9 to 12 in English, Science, Mathematics and Biology from this year, members of the CBSE governing body discussed the issue recently.

Open-book tests allow students to access books while appearing for the examinations.

The CBSE has said these tests would undergo a pilot phase in schools to evaluate various aspects such as completion time, suitability for formative and summative assessment, and perceptions of stakeholders. It has proposed the timeline for design, development, and the review of open book tests by June. This will be followed by pilot testing of materials in schools in November and December.

The CBSE has said that open-book tests would focus on higher-order thinking skills, application, analysis, critical and creative thinking, and problem-solving.

Training teachers

Members of the governing body contemplated this proposal and raised queries on the CBSE's strategy for training teachers to endorse open-book assessments among students.

One member stressed the importance of the CBSE's preparedness to confront unprecedented challenges that might arise during this endeavour and sought clarification regarding the type of content the CBSE plans to develop for this test.

The CBSE said that open-book tests would comprise visual aids, diverging from curriculum-linked case-based questions to explore content beyond the syllabi.

However, members of the governing body acknowledged that there were challenges persisting in developing high-quality textual materials, ensuring student understanding and acceptance of this new assessment method.

Members warned that it should not make schools anxious or foster tense environments.

One member even suggested that teachers could first take open-book tests to grasp the potential for multiple answers in open-book exam questions. Another member said advanced placement exams of U.S. college entrance had a high amount of question clarity and quality, advocating for a similar high standard in open book examination content.

ED issues fresh look out circular against founder of Byju's

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a fresh look out circular (LOC) against edutech entrepreneur Byju Raveendran in an alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) amounting to ₹9,362.35 crore.

In November last year, the FEMA Adjudicating Authority had issued show-cause notices to Think & Learn Private Limited, which runs Byju's, and Mr. Raveendran.

The agency had launched the FEMA inquiry following allegations related to the foreign investment received, significant foreign remittances, and overseas investments made by the company in contravention of the Act.

Byju Raveendran

The ED had in April 2023 searched the Bengaluru premises of the company and Mr. Raveendran's residence. According to the agency, the company and Mr. Raveendran had failed to submit documents of imports against advance remittances made outside India; failed to realise the proceeds of exports made abroad; delayed the filing of documents against the FDI received into the company; failed to file documents against the remittances made overseas; and also failed to allot shares against the FDI received.

Consider renaming lioness called Sita: HC to Bengal govt.

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The lioness, along with a lion named Akbar, was brought from Tripura as part of an animal exchange initiative

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday asked the West Bengal government to consider renaming a lioness named after the Hindu goddess Sita. The lioness is now put up in a State zoo.

The single-judge Bench of the court's Jalpaiguri circuit also directed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), which had complained that the animal's name offended Hindu sentiments, to reclassify its plea into a public interest litigation (PIL) so that it can be placed before the regular Bench of the High Court.

The lioness, along with a lion named Akbar, was brought to West Bengal's Siliguri Safari Park from Tripura's Sepahijala Zoological Park on February 13, as part of an animal exchange initiative.

"Our State is suffering from various controversies... right from appointment of teachers to other controversies... Why do you want to create more controversies by naming a lioness after Sita," observed Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya, who orally asked Additional Advocate-General (AAG) Debjyoti Choudhary, representing the State, to take a prudent step to avoid this controversy.

The AAG responded that the State was considering renaming the animal.

During the hearing, the VHP said the name of the lioness has hurt the religious sentiments of Hindu community and could be termed blasphemy.

"I was thinking last night whether any animal can be given a name after a god or mythological heroes or freedom fighters or Nobel laureates... Whether we can name a lion after Swami Vivekananda or Ramakrishna Dev?" the judge orally observed in the court. He added that he was also unhappy that the lion had been named after a very successful and secular Mughal king.

He asked the AAG if he would name his pet dog after any Hindu god or goddess, or a Muslim prophet.

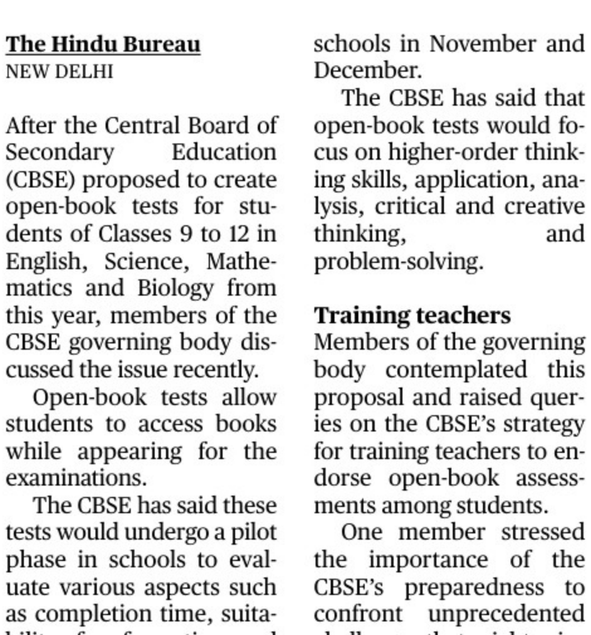
The AAG pointed out that the animals had been named by the authorities in Tripura. "These animals were born in 2016 and 2018. For five years, no one challenged these names, but once they came to West Bengal, they started this controversy," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14105

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Sourness essentially from lime and gold fish in hodge-podge (11)
8 Steal cycles in a round (3)
10 Playboy's comb (4)
11 Minister retracting ban on Bangladeshi imports initially (5)
12 Chiefly romantic offering, serenading sweetheart! (4)
13 Passage extracted from novels I actually recalled (5)
15 American soldiers taking part in Salute to union (9)
16 Say Dennis is changing name at Church (6)
18 Women wait outside for turn (6)
21 Angry players seen fighting were rational (4,5)
23 Kid eats bananas and the last piece of cake (5)
25 Bond's usually OK, especially undercover (4)
26 Old and dreary smell (5)
27 Sad fool retired without money (4)
28 Pick up, scatter and stitch (3)
29 Thorough inspection of English bridge after cruise in ship (5,6)

Down

1 Hanger-on in wild American parties (8)
2 Plant's only losing money essentially (4)
3 Shrewd asset manager, let us select regularly (5)
4 As per Spooner, tramp embraces cheats (7)
5 Running shoes for coaches (8)
6 Prayer's regularly put up in worship room (6)
9 First show of love in Bollywood that is concerning (8)
14 Made light of abrupt delay even in chaos (8)
17 They bravely cross Europe to Oman's capital in a chopper, perhaps (3,5)
19 Explorer held up by hiccup severely (8)
20 Country blending into sea (7)
22 Starting from Oliver Twist, reads books and relishes (6)
24 Active teacher's up to visit Bangkok on vacation (5)
27 Attack nanny (4)

SUDOKU

1			4				9	
		2		1		8		5
4				8				
				2	5			4
6		4				7		3
9			3	6				
				7				1
3		1		5		4		
	6				1			8

No.SS6077 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	B	R	I	N	G	T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E	
		O		E		R		L		W		L		
A	D	M	I	T			U	N	B	E	N	D	I	N	G
S		A		H		S		O		S		P		O
T	I	N	S	E	L	T	O	W	N		A	P	I	A
I		I		R				R		S		E		L
G	U	A	Y	M	A	S			O	V	O	I	D	A	L
M				O		P		O		U				T
A	C	C	U	S	E	R		M	U	R	D	O	C	H
T		O		T		A				G		U		E
I	B	R	I		O	Y	S	T	E	R	S	T	E	W
S		S		D		C		H		A		D		A
M	E	L	I	O	R	A	T	E		P	R	O	X	Y
		E		W		N		M		E		O		
	A	T	O	N	E	S	L	E	I	S	U	R	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	4	8	6	5	9	2	7
2	9	8	7	1	3	6	5	4
7	6	5	9	4	2	1	3	8
9	7	6	3	5	4	2	8	1
1	8	3	2	9	7	4	6	5
4	5	2	6	8	1	7	9	3
6	2	1	5	7	8	3	4	9
8	4	9	1	3	6	5	7	2
5	3	7	4	2	9	8	1	6

FAITH

Listening to good advice

For the people who are distressed and confused, there will be some solutions from good and noble people. We have to approach the right men to redress our grievances. Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that Arjuna was faltering, exhausting in sweat, and his palpitation soaring high on the war field. He was terribly confused and upset about whether or not to participate in the war. He requested Lord Krishna to tender advice and guide him properly. After hearing Lord's upadesa in the form of Sri Bhagavad Gita, Arjuna said all his doubts were clarified, and his mind had become steady.

Like Arjuna, Dhritarashtra was in the same condition when he had to decide to give a share of the kingdom to Pandavas. He asked the pious and noble personality Vidhura to help him come out of the dilemma. The saner advice tendered by Vidhura was neglected by Dhritarashtra, which landed his entire race in trouble.

Dhritarashtra and Sanjaya studied together. Dhritarashtra asked Sanjaya, "Why are you alone smart and greatly learned while I am not?". Sanjaya replied that he was not gripped by delusion or hypocrisy. Though unasked, Vibhishana extended advice to Ravana, and Prahladha tried to convince his father Hiranyakasipu. They all turned deaf ears, which landed them in peril.

INBRIEF

BYD India to unveil Seal EV sedan in India on March 5

Chinese electric carmaker BYD's Seal sedan, which competes with Tesla Model 3 globally, is all set to be unveiled in the Indian market on March 5, said Sanjay Gopalakrishnan, BYD India's senior VP, Electric Passenger Vehicle. Bookings will start on March 5 and delivery by March/April. "Compared with Tesla Model 3, it has a more advanced technology and will offer a superior range of 580 km. We will import the EV as a completely built unit from China," he said.

Ashok Leyland achieves 3 mn production milestone

Ashok Leyland on Thursday announced it had achieved the three-million production milestone of commercial vehicles from its Pantnagar manufacturing facility. "Ashok Leyland has always been ahead of the curve and leading the commercial vehicle industry in product technology and innovation," MD & CEO Shenu Agarwal said in a statement. In 2008, the company achieved one million production milestone and two million in 2018.

Bharat Highways InvIT to float ₹2,500-crore IPO on Feb. 28

Bharat Highways InvIT, an infrastructure investment trust, on Thursday said it would unveil its ₹2,500-crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) on February 28. The InvIT's maiden public issue will conclude on March 1 and the price band has been set at ₹98-100 per unit for the issue, Bharat Highways InvIT said in a statement. Proceeds from the issue will be utilised to provide loans to the Project SPVs (special purpose vehicles) for repayment of their outstanding loans. PTI

Real interest rate of 2% risks impairing growth: MPC's Varma

Stating that inflation has to be curbed to target for growth to be inclusive and sustained, RBI's Patra said monetary policy must remain restrictive

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

For and against

Varma held that given an FY25 inflation view of 4.5%, a 6.5% repo rate could hurt growth; Patra emphasised price stability

- A real interest rate of 2% creates real risk of turning growth pessimism into a self fulfilling prophecy: Varma
- Private consumption is languishing under strain of still elevated food inflation: Patra
- Inflation has to be restrained to its target for growth to be inclusive, sustained: Patra

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Jayanth R. Varma was the sole dissenter at the February 6-8 meeting of the RBI's policy panel, which voted 5-1 to hold the repo rate at 6.5%, arguing that with inflation projected to average 4.5% in 2024-25, a real interest rate of 2% would be way too high and ran the risk of hurting economic growth.

"If the potential growth rate of the economy is close to 8%, then the economy is not at risk of overheating in 2024-25," Mr. Varma contended in his statement at the meeting, the minutes released on Thursday show. "A real interest rate of 1-1.5% would then be sufficient to glide inflation to the target of 4%. A real interest rate of 2% creates the very real risk of turning growth pessimism into a self fulfilling prophecy," he asserted.

'No overheating'

Noting that economic growth was indeed 'holding up well', he said there was, however, 'no evidence that the economy was overheating'.

"Perhaps, the majority of the MPC worry that the output gap has already closed, and that the projected growth rate of 7% for 2024-25 exceeds the growth potential of the Indian economy. I do not think that such growth pessimism is warranted," Mr. Varma observed.

"It must also be borne in mind that the process of fiscal consolidation is projected to continue in 2024-25. This opens up space for monetary easing without risking an inflationary spiral," Mr. Varma stated, adding that it was vital for the MPC to signal that it took "its dual mandate of inflation and growth seriously".

"I therefore vote to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points, and to change the stance to neutral."

'Must stay restrictive'

RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra was for his part emphatic "that monetary policy must remain restrictive and maintain downward pressure on inflation while minimising the output costs of disinflation".

"Private consumption, which accounts for 57% of GDP, is languishing under the strain of still elevated food inflation," he noted. "This is particularly telling in rural areas. Inflation has to be restrained to its target for growth to be inclusive and sustained," Mr. Patra stressed.

Observing that the outlook for the Indian economy remained highly sensitive to inflation risks, he said, "High inflation erodes purchasing power, especially for those least protected against the higher costs of essentials like food. Restoring price stability is beneficial for all".

"It is only when inflation subsides and stays close to the target lastingly that policy restraint can be eased," the RBI's Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy and MPC member, emphasised in his statement.

Flash PMI reading signals February fervour for India Inc.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fresh contracts for services players in February likely grew at the fastest pace in a decade

Output levels and new orders for Indian manufacturing and services firms likely rose at a seven-month high pace in February, as per the HSBC India Flash PMI, with fresh contracts for services players growing at the fastest pace in a decade.

The PMI for Manufacturing rose to 56.7 in February, as per the Flash reading, which provides an advance indication of trends in an ongoing month, compared with 56.5 PMI print in January. For services, the Flash PMI stood at 62 this month, from 61.8 last month. A PMI reading of over 50 indicates an expansion in business activity levels.

While the pace of increase in input prices this month has been the slowest in three and a half years, goods cost dropped at a faster pace for goods producers. For services firms, there was some pressure on labour costs.

Farmers unhappy with 8% rise in FRP for cane

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved on Wednesday the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for the 2024-25 sugar season that starts in October this year at ₹340 per quintal.

However, farmers have said that this will not meet their cost of production and sugar mills have demanded permission for higher ethanol production.

An official press release said the FRP announced on Wednesday is 8% higher than the FRP of sugarcane for the current season that started in October.

The Karnataka State Sugarcane Farmers' Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar told *The Hindu* that the current cost of production is ₹358 a quintal in Karnataka and that farmers are getting ₹315 a quintal. Even with the 8% raise for the next season, farmers will get only ₹340 a quintal, he said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,158	0.74
US Dollar	82.85	0.13
Gold	62,800	-0.07
Brent oil	82.99	0.41

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3263.05	39.85
Adani Ports	1310.95	19.95
Apollo Hosp	6769.20	9.05
Asian Paints	3017.40	15.60
Axis Bank	1100.90	16.70
Bajaj Auto	8498.45	266.20
Bajaj Finserv	1592.55	5.60
Bajaj Finance	6674.95	-13.85
Bharti Airtel	1135.55	-4.35
BPCL	625.90	-7.30
Britannia Ind	4956.95	33.95
Cipla	1453.30	6.00
Coal India	445.15	12.20
Divis Lab	3645.40	-3.70
Dr Reddys Lab	6363.95	14.80
Eicher Motors	3951.40	115.05
Grasim Ind	2201.20	7.20
HCL Tech	1686.40	50.10
HDFC Bank	1419.55	-19.60
HDFC Life	574.65	-2.80
Hero MotoCorp	4495.15	-39.70
Hindalco	521.15	9.35
Hind Unilever	2388.10	-19.00
ICICI Bank	1062.70	10.75
IndusInd Bank	1489.15	-28.10
Infosys	1681.35	25.80
ITC	414.45	11.10
JSW Steel	828.65	0.40
Kotak Bank	1724.75	-21.35
L&T	3363.75	67.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5486.75	66.65
M&M	1910.35	50.70
Maruti Suzuki	11657.80	191.95
NestleIndia	2563.15	19.55
NTPC	339.55	3.45
ONGC	274.70	1.75
PowerGrid Corp	282.60	2.50
Reliance Ind	2963.50	28.10
SBI Life	1509.65	7.95
State Bank	765.90	-5.60
Sun Pharma	1558.05	14.65
TataConsumerProduct	1159.50	-1.25
Tata Motors	932.30	11.25
Tata Steel	145.90	2.00
TCS	4087.10	95.60
Tech Mahindra	1328.10	31.50
Titan	3652.05	-4.30
UltraTech Cement	9961.20	-7.20
UPL	492.30	0.15
Wipro	531.05	9.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.64	82.96
Euro	89.72	90.07
British Pound	104.84	105.25
Japanese Yen (100)	55.04	55.25
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	94.15	94.52
Singapore Dollar	61.64	61.89
Canadian Dollar	61.43	61.67
Malaysian Ringitt	17.29	17.39
Australian Dollar	54.43	54.65

Source:Indian Bank

Aditya Birla aims to disrupt paints market with its Opus foray

Lalatendu Mishra
PANIPAT

Kumar Mangalam Birla

Aditya Birla Group entered the ₹80,000 crore decorative paints market by starting production of its Birla Opus paints at three manufacturing plants simultaneously on Thursday.

Inaugurating the Grasim Industries plants at Panipat, Ludhiana and Cheyyar in Tamil Nadu, Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla hinted at the plan to 'disrupt' the market with its paints foray. Grasim is setting up a total of 6 paint plants at an investment of ₹10,000 crore, with a combined capacity of 1,332 million tones per annum.

With its large scale operation, the business is targeting revenue of ₹10,000 crore by the end of FY28 and aims to turn profitable that year. "Our deep insight into the building materials ecosystem... offers us a unique vantage point," Mr. Birla said at the inaugural event in Panipat.

(The writer was in Panipat at Grasim's invitation)

Repco Home Finance aims to enlarge AUM to ₹20,000 cr. by FY2027

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

RHFL will miss disbursal target of ₹3,600 crore for FY24, expects to grow at 12% in FY24

Repco Home Finance Ltd.'s Board has approved plans to reach ₹20,000 crore Assets Under Management (AUM) by FY27, from ₹13,185 crore now, RHFL CEO K. Swaminathan said during an interaction.

RHFL's Board also approved plans to add 40 branches annually to the existing 166 and bring down gross non-performing assets to less than 2%, from 4% now.

"If the company benefits due to external factors, like government schemes on affordable housing, the growth could be much higher, with AUM reaching almost ₹25,000 crore by 2027," Mr. Swaminathan added.

While RHFL would miss its disbursal target of ₹3,600 crore for FY24, the company expected to log 12% growth this fiscal, and grow by 14%, 17% and 20% in the next three years.

Half of the new branches would be in Tamil Nadu, RHFL's core market, but States where the company has presence, like Gujarat, were also being explored.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
A – 34, Sector – 62, NOIDA – 201309
Tel: 0120-2590603/610-612 website: www.nchm.gov.in

Advt. No. NCHM-02/2024

NCHMCT invites applications for filling up the following posts on direct recruitment/Deputation basis:

Sl. No.	Post & Pay Level	No. of Vacancy(s) & Reservation (if any)	Mode of Recruitment
1	Director (Admn. & Finance) Pay Level-13	1(Date of Vacancy : 01.06.2024)	Deputation terms
2	Assistant Pay Level-6	1 (SC)	Direct Recruitment
3	Stenographer Grade D Pay Level-4	1 (OBC)	Direct Recruitment

For detailed information and application form log on to **www.nchm.gov.in**
Last date for receipt of application in the Council is **25th March 2024.**
The competent authority reserves the right to cancel/republish the above advertisement, without assigning any reason.
Director (A&F)

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited

SL. NO.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
1.	Selection of Contractor for Integrated Social Housing Complex for Slum household project at Rajaji Nagar Thiruvananthapuram First phase	2024_SCTLT_655865_1	Rs.18,02,66,134/-	24-Feb-2024

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by email. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(SD/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LTD.

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,
Tamil Nadu, Ph.: 04332 - 261600

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Scope of Work	Due date
232413 007308	Fixing Contractors for Loading & TPTN of DEH Pulpwood from APFDC to TNPL Unit - I & Unit - II for the year 2024-25.	28.02.2024
Email	purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from **www.tnpl.com**
DIPR/1078/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

E-TENDER NOTICE

MSETCL SRM invites online RFx (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.
E-tender No./ RFx No. 7000030050 Name of Work : "Replacement of existing 0.4 ACSR Conductor by equivalent High Performance Conductor of 220 kV Padgha - Pal line, 220 kV Padgha - Jambhul, 220 kV Jambhul - Anandnagar lines under EHV O&M Dn., Dombivali under EHV O&M Circle, Panvel." Estimated Cost: Rs. 49,62,69,602.00. Tender Fees : Rs. 25,000/-+ GST.
Date for Sale and Submission of the e-Tender Documents: From 23.02.2024 @ 14.00 Hrs to 15.03.2024 @ 15.00 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: https://srmetender.mahatransco.in -Sd-
CHIEF ENGINEER, EHV PC (O&M) Zone, **Vashi**

NIAB राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India
Sy.No.37, Opp.Journalist Colony, Extended Q City Road, Gowlidoddi, Hyderabad. Telangana, India - 500032. Tel: +91 40 2312 0103, 115; Fax: +91 40 2312 0130, Email: admin@niab.org.in; Web: www.niab.res.in

Advt. No. 08/2024

NIAB, an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity. NIAB invites applications from Indian citizens for the following positions:

S. No	Positions	Pay Level	No of post
1	Service & Maintenance Engineer	Level 7	1 - UR
2	Clerks	Level 4	2 - UR

For more details, please visit NIAB website **www.niab.res.in**
Date of commencement of online applications : **23-02-2024**
Last date for receipt of online applications: **22-03-2024 (5 PM)**
Sd/- DIRECTOR, NIAB

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). E-Mail: purchase.enggspares@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 007262	Procurement of Seamless Tube, Super Heater Coil & Bed Coil.	06.03.2024
232413 007264	Procurement of ESP Collecting Electrode.	06.03.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document at our website: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1077/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Office of Municipal Corporation Jodhpur (North)
Nagar Nigam Bhawan, Polytechnic college campus, Residency Road, Jodhpur-342004
Phone No:- 0291-2651464 Fax-0291-2651464 ID :- nnjnorth@gmail.com

S.No. 399 Date :- 12.02.2024

NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB No..... Date.....
(UBN Number DLB2324SLOB31742-47 & 49)

Single Stage unconditional covered bids are invited electronically on behalf of the Municipal Corporation Jodhpur North for the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work and Site	Amount (IN INR)
1.	Development of IoT-based system for door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and transportation of segregated MSW to the Keru waste processing site through transfer station under the jurisdiction of Nagar Nigam North Jodhpur in wards No. 7 to 12 (Project duration: - 24 Months)	Rs. 4,22,48,976/-
2.	Development of IoT-based system for door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and transportation of segregated MSW to the Keru waste processing site through transfer station under the jurisdiction of Nagar Nigam North Jodhpur in wards No. 13 to 17 (Project duration: - 24 Months)	Rs. 3,83,38,608/-
3.	Development of IoT-based system for door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and transportation of segregated MSW to the Keru waste processing site through transfer station under the jurisdiction of Nagar Nigam North Jodhpur in wards No. 25 to 30 (Project duration: - 24 Months)	Rs. 3,48,45,888/-
4.	Development of IoT-based system for door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and transportation of segregated MSW to the Keru waste processing site through transfer station under the jurisdiction of Nagar Nigam North Jodhpur in wards No. 31 to 37 (Project duration: - 24 Months)	Rs. 4,48,65,744/-
5.	Development of IoT-based system for door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and transportation of segregated MSW to the Keru waste processing site through transfer station under the jurisdiction of Nagar Nigam North Jodhpur in wards No. 38 to 43 (Project duration: - 24 Months)	Rs. 4,29,77,088/-
6.	Development of IoT-based system for door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and transportation of segregated MSW to the Keru waste processing site through transfer station under the jurisdiction of Nagar Nigam North Jodhpur in wards No. 54 to 56 and 59 to 61 (Project duration: - 24 Months)	Rs. 3,72,92,640/-
7.	Development of IoT-based system for door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and transportation of segregated MSW to the Keru waste processing site through transfer station under the jurisdiction of Nagar Nigam North Jodhpur in wards No. 75 to 80 (Project duration: - 24 Months)	Rs. 4,52,13,168/-

from enlisted / eligible bidders of appropriate class of the department/ organization, latest up to 3 PM on - -24.
The complete Bidding Document may be seen or downloaded from the website of State Public Procurement Portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or e-procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or the official website **http://lsg.rajasthan.gov.in/mcjn**.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/13380
Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Jodhpur (North)

'Indians prefer AI tools over human interactions'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

About 57% of Indian consumers chose AI-enabled services over human interactions, higher than the global average of 39%, Adobe and Oxford University said in a study.

Some 87% Indian brands prioritised customer experience enhancements over other business goals, the global survey of 4,000 consumers and 1,500 brands to discover how Generative AI and personalisation are transforming the digital customer experience landscape found, said Adobe.

'India is a tough market as Indians want a lot but don't spend much'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Uber global CEO Dara Khosrowshahi with Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani.

Uber global CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said India was one of the toughest markets to grow in because Indians wanted a lot of services but didn't want to spend much money.

"India is one of the toughest markets out there. If we can succeed here, we can succeed anywhere else," Mr. Khosrowshahi said.

He further said that despite difficulties Uber would grow its affordable mobility services offerings, specifically expanding two-wheeler and three-wheeler services in the country.

The ridesharing platform also signed an MoU with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on Uber's app.

'Turtle Wax will invest in products, infra in India'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Turtle Wax, a Chicago-based automotive appearance products company, on Thursday, said it would invest in infrastructure, innovative products and world-class services in India to standardise the highly unorganised auto appearance (car detailing) market in the country.

Denis John Healy III, Global CEO, Turtle Wax was in Bengaluru to inaugurate the company's first 'experience' centre in India to showcase 'innovations and excellence' that is possible in car detailing.

LA PARAGUA

At least 16 dead, 11 injured in Venezuela illegal mine collapse

AP

At least 16 people died when an illegal gold mine collapsed in the jungles of southern Venezuela, officials said on Wednesday. The incident happened on Tuesday at the "Bulla loca" mine in the state of Bolivar, a seven-hour boat ride from nearest town, La Paragua. President Nicolas Maduro said another 11 were injured. AFP

WASHINGTON

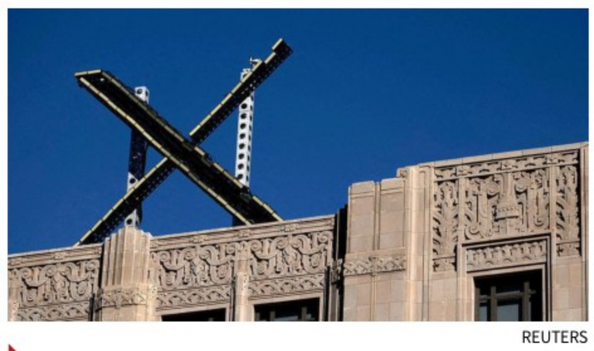
U.S. conducts more 'self-defence strikes' on Houthi missiles

AFP

American forces launched "self-defence strikes" on Wednesday against Houthi missiles and launch positions in rebel-controlled Yemen that posed threats to commercial shipping and naval forces in the Red Sea, the U.S. military said. The military said it also shot down a "one-way attack unmanned aircraft system". AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan blocks X for the sixth day as activists criticise the shutdown

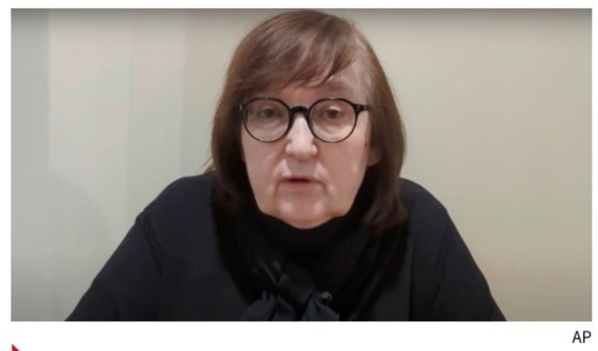


REUTERS

Pakistan's media regulators have blocked the social media platform X, with users across the country on Thursday enduring the sixth day of partial and complete shutdowns. There was no comment on the outage by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. Human rights activists have demanded a full restoration of Internet services. PTI

MOSCOW

Navalny's mother says she is being pressured into 'secret' burial



AP

The mother of Alexei Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's main opponent who died in an Arctic prison last week, said on Thursday officials are pressuring her into a "secret" burial for her son. She said she was shown his body in the morgue in Salekhard, after several days of being barred from seeing the remains. AFP

Israel strikes Gaza's Rafah as ceasefire talks are under way

At least 29,410 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israel's campaign in the tiny strip; Tel Aviv vows to continue the war through Ramzan if hostages are not released

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Destroyed building and the rubble of the al-Faruq mosque on Thursday, following an overnight Israeli air strike in Rafah. AFP

Israel launched air strikes on Thursday on southern Gaza's Rafah after threatening to send troops against Hamas militants in the city where around 1.4 million Palestinians have sought refuge.

Global powers trying to find a way to end the Israel-Hamas war have so far failed, but a U.S. envoy was expected in Israel on Thursday in the latest attempt to secure a truce deal.

The war has also triggered mounting violence in the occupied West Bank, where three Palestinian gunmen opened fire on Thursday on cars in a highway traffic jam, killing one and wounding eight, including a young pregnant woman.

The attackers were shot dead at the scene, near a Jewish settlement east of Jerusalem. Israeli far-right politicians quickly called for more citizens to carry weapons and for even greater restrictions on Palestinian West Bank residents.

More than four months of relentless fighting and bombardment have flattened much of the Hamas-run coastal territory and pushed its population of around 2.4 million to the brink of famine, according to the UN.

Alarm has centred on Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where more than 1.4 million people are now living in crowded shelters and makeshift tents where disease threatens.

Israel has warned that, if Hamas does not free the remaining hostages held in Gaza by the start of Ramzan, it will keep fighting during the Muslim holy month, including in Rafah.

Israel has already been bombing targets in Rafah, which was again hit overnight and where early Thursday multiple air strikes were heard.

Israel's campaign has killed at least 29,410 people, mostly women and children.

Russia's war has inflicted 'horrific human cost': UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Volker Turk

Russia's war in Ukraine has exacted a terrible human cost and inflicted suffering on millions, the United Nations rights chief said on Thursday, ahead of the second anniversary of the invasion.

The damage caused by the war would be felt for generations, said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, renewing his call for Moscow to stop the war immediately.

"The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has exacted a horrific human cost, inflicting immense suffering on millions of civilians," Mr. Turk said.

Russia invaded its neighbour on February 24, 2022.

"Russia's full-scale armed attack on Ukraine, which is about to enter its third year with no end in sight, continues to cause serious and widespread human rights violations, destroying lives and livelihoods," Mr. Turk said.

Mr. Turk called for thorough and independent investigations into all violations in the conflict and said victims should be afforded accountability and reparations.

He said millions of Ukrainians had been displaced, thousands had lost their homes, and hundreds of hospitals and schools had been damaged or destroyed.

"The long-term impact of this war in Ukraine will be felt for generations," he said.

Turk's office said that over the past two years it had documented "widespread torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary detention of civilians by Russian armed forces".

"Summary executions, enforced disappearances and repression of the right to freedom of expression and assembly have also been documented in occupied territory," it added.

The UN Human Rights Office said it had also documented violations committed by Ukrainian military and security forces, "albeit a fraction of the scope of those perpetrated by Russian forces".

Biden calls Putin a 'crazy SOB'; Kremlin slams remark

Agence France-Presse
SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. President Joe Biden called his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin a "crazy SOB" at a public fundraising event on Wednesday, which the Kremlin decried as "shameful".

The 81-year-old leader has regularly had harsh words for Mr. Putin since Moscow's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine two years ago, including calling him a "butcher" and a "war criminal".

"We have a crazy SOB like that guy Putin, and others, and we always have to worry about nuclear conflict, but the existential threat to humanity is climate," Mr. Biden said in a brief speech at the event in San Francisco attended by a small group of media.

Chinese research ship moors near Maldives, raising concern

Press Trust of India
MALE

A high-tech Chinese marine research ship on Thursday arrived near the Maldives after spending about a month in the Indian Ocean near the island nation, media reports said here.

The ship, *Xiang Yang Hong 03* reached the Maldives on the same day when Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the strategically located archipelago for a trilateral naval exercise.

India had already expressed concern about the movement of the Chinese research ship in the Indian Ocean and also prevailed on Sri Lanka to refuse permission for the ship to dock at the Colombo port.

"Chinese research vessel *Xiang Yang Hong 03* was moored close to Male City this morning. Around noon, the ship was shown to be near Thilafushi," news portal *Edition.mv* reported, quoting the Marine Traffic website that tracks all ocean liners across the globe.

It also claimed that the vessel was "not visible on common tracking sites starting from January 22. It is believed that the vessel's tracking systems had been turned off when it was in the Java Sea off Indonesia then".

An American think-tank has alleged that a vast fleet of China's "scientific research" ships is collecting data from the oceans, including in the Indian Ocean Region, for military purposes, especially for submarine operations, a charge denied by Beijing.

Taliban carry out public execution

Associated Press
GHAZNI

The Taliban carried out a double public execution at a stadium in southeastern Afghanistan on Thursday as thousands watched the killing of two convicted men as their victims' relatives fired the gunshot.

The Taliban's Supreme Court had ruled that the pair were responsible for the stabbing deaths of two victims in separate attacks, according to a court statement.

It identified the two as Syed Jamal from central Wardak province and Gul Khan from Ghazni – though it was unclear who did the stabbing, the two convicted men or others.

The statement also said that three lower courts and the Taliban's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, had ordered the executions in retribution for their purported crimes.

The killings were the third and fourth public executions since the Taliban seized power in 2021 amid the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Massive leak shows Chinese firm hacked foreign govts.

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

I-Soon was able to breach government offices in India, Thailand, Vietnam and South Korea

A Chinese tech security firm was able to breach foreign governments, infiltrate social media accounts and hack personal computers, a massive data leak analysed by experts this week revealed.

The trove of documents from I-Soon, a private company that competed for Chinese government contracts, shows that its hackers compromised more than a dozen governments, according to cybersecurity firms SentinelLabs and Malwarebytes.

I-Soon also breached "democracy organisations" in China's semi-autonomous city of Hong Kong, universities and the NATO military alliance, SentinelLabs researchers wrote in a blog post on Wednesday.

The leaked data was posted last week on the online software repository GitHub by an unknown individual.

"The leak provides some of the most concrete details seen publicly to date, revealing the maturing nature of China's cyber espionage ecosystem," SentinelLabs analysts said.

I-Soon was also able to breach government offices in India, Thailand, Vietnam and South Korea, among others, Malwarebytes said in a separate post on Wednesday.

Sport

Porto stuns Arsenal with a late winner; Napoli holds Barcelona

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PORTO

Sublime: Galeno's exquisite strike does the trick for Porto. AP

Galeno curled in a sublime stoppage-time strike as FC Porto defeated Arsenal 1-0 in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie in Portugal on Wednesday.

Appearing in a first knockout match in Europe's premier club competition for seven years, Arsenal struggled to break down an organised Porto defence before Galeno's last-gasp stroke of brilliance.

The defeat ended Arsenal's eight-game unbeaten run against Portuguese opposition and leaves Mikel Arteta's side with plenty of work to do in the return leg in London next month.

Porto defender Pepe, who turns 41 next week and is the oldest outfield player in Champions League history, made his 119th appearance in the competition.

By comparison, Arsenal's starters had combined for a total of 104 before kick-off at the Estadio do Dragao.

Victor Osimhen made a special return to action for Napoli after his goal gave the Italian champions a 1-1 draw with Barcelona.

Nigeria forward Osimhen rolled home the leveller with 15 minutes left of the first leg at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona in his first match since returning from the African Cup of Nations.

The 25-year-old equalised Robert Lewandowski's 60th-minute opener, which seemed likely to be the decisive goal as Barca was for long periods the better team. Even so, it was his team's first shot on target.

The results: Pre-quarterfinals, first leg: FC Porto 1 (Galeno 90+4) bt Arsenal 0; Napoli 1 (Osimhen 75) drew with Barcelona 1 (Lewandowski 60).

Poonacha ousts top seed Nagal with ease

MAHA OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

Two-time National champion Niki Poonacha overcame some nervous spells to blast his way past the country's No.1, the 101st-ranked Sumit Nagal, 6-4, 6-3, in the pre-quarterfinals of the $133,250 Maha Open Challenger tennis tournament at the Balewadi Stadium on Thursday.

After an indifferent start, when he made three double faults after opting to serve, the 28-year-old Poonacha settled down to play his best tennis, hitting big serves and firing ground-strokes beyond the reach of the athletic Nagal.

Coached by Borna Bikic, who was on hand to guide him, Poonacha turned the match around with breaks of serve in the eighth and tenth games.

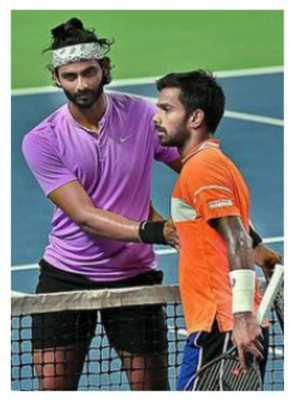
Confident

In the second set, Poonacha was his confident self. He fired six aces, hit a flurry of winners, and had only one double fault.

Most importantly, he converted all his chances and capitalised on the three break points that he forced.

A string of winners saw him break Nagal's serve in the sixth game of the second set. Serving for the match in the ninth game, Poonacha made three errors, before capitalising on the fourth match-point.

"Great composure and amazing execution," said coach Borna, while applauding Poonacha on a job well done.



Poonacha commiserates with Nagal. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

After the title in Chennai and a semifinal in Bengaluru, it was a disappointment for Nagal, who fought hard till the end. In the quarterfinals, Poonacha will challenge seventh seed Dane Sweeny of Australia.

"One of the biggest wins of my career, beating a top-100 player. My serve got me out of spots when it was tight. I am happy that I stepped it up when required. I am excited and confident of playing my best in the next round," said Poonacha.

The results: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Niki Poonacha bt Sumit Nagal 6-4, 6-3; Dane Sweeny (Aus) bt Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) 6-4, 6-1; Alexey Zakharov bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-4; Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) bt Tristan Boyer (USA) 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Arjun Kadhe & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Jakob Schnaitter & Mark Wallner (Ger) 6-4, 7-6(6); Dan Added (Fra) & Yunseong Chung (Kor) bt Siddhant Banthia & Parikshit Somani 3-6, 7-5, [10-7]; Tristan Schoolkate & Adam Walton (Aus) bt Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) 6-1, 6-0; Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) & Enrico Dalla Valle (Ita) 6-2, 6-7(4), [10-2].

SOLID DEFENCE

Rathour is confident Patidar will come back strongly

K.R. DEEPAK

Rajat Patidar has totalled 14 runs in his last three innings. But batting coach Vikram Rathour backed the Madhya Pradesh batter. “One doesn’t become a bad player because of two matches. He has scored a lot of runs to get into the team. He has had awkward dismissals. He will come up with a very impactful innings.

ROLE MODEL

‘Unbelievable’: Stokes pays rich tribute to Anderson

K.R. DEEPAK

Jimmy Anderson, 41, is just four shy of 700 Test wickets, and Ben Stokes paid a rich tribute to the timeless warrior. "If you were to have a role model while setting out to be a fast bowler, it's him. After a very high workload Test last week, he is feeling fresh as a fiddle. His wickets, his longevity and his age... unbelievable."

ONE STEP AT A TIME

We want to keep things simple and be in the moment: Harmanpreet

K. MURALI KUMAR

Harmanpreet Kaur, defending champion Mumbai Indians’ captain, appeared relaxed ahead of the match against the Delhi Capitals. She said, "We are not expecting too much from ourselves and are not trying to overdo things. We want to keep things simple and be in the moment, and continue doing the right things, as we did last year."

ALL PRAISE

Annabel has become an extremely valuable member: Lanning

K. MURALI KUMAR

Delhi Capitals captain Meg Lanning heaped praise on new signing Annabel Sutherland. She said, "Annabel has matured on and off the pitch in the last year to become an extremely valuable member of any team on which she plays. She has some serious power with the bat and can play multiple roles depending on the game situation."

India’s task cut out with Bumrah rested and a series win at stake

England has Robinson replacing Wood and off-spinner Bashir coming in for leggie Rehan; Akash and Mukesh in possible contention to partner Siraj for the hosts even as the intrigue about the true nature of the pitch continues

ENGLAND IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
RANCHI

The buzz around the JSCA Stadium ahead of the fourth India-England Test was rather muted on match-eve. This is perhaps why tickets have been priced as low as ₹400. And if you shell out ₹2000, you can land in the JSCA President’s Enclosure!

“Dhoni *khel raha hai? (*is Dhoni playing),” asked Gopal, a taxi driver. On learning that this favourite son of Jharkhand had long retired from international cricket, he asked if Virat Kohli was playing. Disappointed on that count too, he wore an exasperated look. “*Team mein bacha hi kya hai* (what’s left of the team),” he muttered.

Perception matters, in sports like in politics. But without Dhoni for long, and without Kohli this series, India has mostly won that battle. The Test side of today is an all-conquering unit, and over three matches in the last month, it has dipped into its seemingly inexhaustible reserves to bounce back from a 0-1 deficit to go 2-1 ahead.

The fourth Test starting on Friday will be an opportunity for India to guarantee a 17th straight series win at home, stretching back to 2012-13. Maybe that will convince Gopal to also come around, for there is more to this team than Dhoni and Kohli.

Surface tension: The England contingent eager to figure out what’s in store. K.R. DEEPAK

The likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Sarfaraz Khan have been central to this. Jaiswal has scored two double centuries; Gill, despite being under fire, has a century and a fifty and Sarfaraz made a confident debut in Rajkot with two half-centuries.

Speedster Akash Deep may be the next newcomer with a chance to impress, for he is in competition with Mukesh Kumar to take Jasprit Bumrah’s place. Neither will come close to Bumrah’s excellence – 17 wickets at 13.64 this series – but complementing Mohammed Siraj will be the need of the hour.

The conditions could help. Winter retreats late north of the Vindhyas, and on Thursday, the sun played hide and seek and there was even a spell of light rain. This has only added to the intrigue surrounding the pitch that many expected to wholesomely assist spinners.

Two-pacer attack

To cover for all possibilities, Ben Stokes has retained the two-pacer attack from Rajkot but with Ollie Robinson in place of Mark Wood as Jimmy Anderson’s partner. Off-spinner Shoaib Bashir will come in for leggie Rehan Ahmed.

However, England needs more than just a change in personnel. It requires Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow to score more than the combined 179 runs they have accumulated. The former, a purist’s delight, now has a well-defined unorthodox streak in him, as exemplified by his dismissal in the previous contest while trying a reverse-scoop off Bumrah.

Yet, England’s commitment to the high-wire Bazball strategy will not change, despite the crushing 434-run loss in Rajkot where the second innings lasted just 39.4 overs.

There are calls for some prudence, but under Brendon McCullum and Stokes, England is averse to allowing two seeming opposites exist together. This approach has after all worked wonders since June 2022 with the side winning 14 of its 21 Tests. If it manages a 15th, it will be the best one yet.

The teams:

India (from): Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (wk), K.S. Bharat (wk), Devdutt Padikkal, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar and Akash Deep.

England (XI): Ben Stokes (Capt.), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Foakes, Shoaib Bashir, Tom Hartley, James Anderson and Ollie Robinson.

Match starts at 9.30 a.m.

Both teams up for the turf challenge, ready to handle whatever they’re thrown at

N. Sudarshan
RANCHI

Heard first, Ben Stokes’ statement on Wednesday that he had “never seen” a pitch like the one at the JSCA Stadium here is sure to convey a sense of shock and dread.

But going by his demeanour in Thursday’s pre-match briefing it was reflective more of the confusion regarding how the turf will play.

“There is a bit more grass taken off from yesterday [Wednesday],” Stokes said. “You do expect the wicket to look different on the day before [the Test] than two days out. But our overall thinking and understanding is that it hasn’t changed much from yesterday.”

On Wednesday, Ollie Pope had described the 22 yards as “platey” with a lot of cracks. Late afternoon on Thursday, the curator bounced the ball outside the right-hander’s off-stump a few times at the Amitabh Chaudhary Pavilion End and then had the roller go over that area.

“We won’t go with many preconceived ideas,” Stokes insisted. “The pitch could be flat as a pancake. Who knows. If it is that, we will adapt. If it does more than what we think, we will adapt to that as well.”

To cover all bases, England has brought in off-spinner Shoaib Bashir for leggie Rehan Ahmed, and speedster Ollie Robinson instead of Mark Wood to join forces with Jimmy Anderson.

Regal redemption: Gill has turned things around after a modest start to the series. K.R. DEEPAK

“Bashir releases the ball from such a height, the extra bounce he gets, we feel it is going to bring us more into the game,” Stokes said. “Spin is going to be assisted. But I also feel that having two seamers, we have a good chance. Purely because of Robinson’s release height and the relentlessness with [which he bowls in] his areas.”

India’s batting coach Vikram Rathour also harped on balance, meaning India could also line-up with two pacers and three spinners.

“In India, there is always a conversation about the pitch. This looks like a typical Indian wicket and seems like it will turn. There are cracks, definitely.

“But I am not sure how much it will turn or when it will start to. We have the required balance in our team to deal with any situation.”

Rathour was all praise for India’s young batters like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan and Shubman Gill for shouldering the burden in the absence of Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul.

“There is cricket intelligence in them,” Rathour said. “They are very cricket smart. When you miss key players, there is a sense of loss. It’s better if you have everyone. “But a home series is a good opportunity for youngsters to come through. They have played on these wickets [before] and it is good to see them perform.”

Visakhapatnam joins IPL-17 venues as Delhi Capitals’ second home

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The 17th edition of the Indian Premier League is set to be played at 13 venues, with Visakhapatnam joining as the Delhi Capitals’ second home.

According to the preliminary schedule for the first two weeks released by the BCCI on Thursday, Visakhapatnam was confirmed as a venue, with the Capitals preferring to play its first two home games in the southern city.

The Hindu understands that besides the 10 cities that are announced as host cities for the first 21 games, the league stage will be played in Delhi, Dharamshala (Punjab Kings) and Guwahati (Rajasthan Royals).

Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals will continue to play two home games each at their second homes.

The fixtures for the IPL have been delayed to avoid the imminent clash with the Lok Sabha election. Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, said in a statement that the BCCI will follow “all necessary protocols and advisories related to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in India”.

“Once the dates for the 18th Lok Sabha elections are announced, the Board will review and address any issues pertaining to the schedule of the first two weeks,” Shah added.

Meanwhile, India speedster Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of the tournament with an ankle injury. He will undergo surgery in the UK.

Note: The dates for the rest of the tournament will be announced later

Date	Match	Venue	Time
March 22	CSK vs RCB	Chennai	8.00 p.m.
March 23	PBKS vs DC	Mohali	3.30 p.m.
March 23	KKR vs SRH	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
March 24	RR vs LSG	Jaipur	3.30 p.m.
March 24	GT vs MI	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
March 25	RCB vs PBKS	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
March 26	CSK vs GT	Chennai	7.30 p.m.
March 27	SRH vs MI	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
March 28	RR vs DC	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
March 29	RCB vs KKR	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
March 30	LSG vs PBKS	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
March 31	GT vs SRH	Ahmedabad	3.30 p.m.
March 31	DC vs CSK	Visakhapatnam	7.30 p.m.
April 1	MI vs RR	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
April 2	RCB vs LSG	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
April 3	DC vs KKR	Visakhapatnam	7.30 p.m.
April 4	GT vs PBKS	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
April 5	SRH vs CSK	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
April 6	RR vs RCB	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
April 7	MI vs DC	Mumbai	3.30 p.m.
April 7	LSG vs GT	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.

Sparks could fly as last year’s finalists MI and DC clash in the opener

WPL SEASON 2

Mayank Chaudhary
BENGALURU

The second iteration of the Women’s Premier League is set for an electric opening here on Friday with defending champion Mumbai Indians going up against last year’s runner-up Delhi Capitals.

The Meg Lanning-led Capitals lost only three games last season, two of which were against the Harmanpreet Kaur's MI including the final.

An endearing pair

Lanning and Shafali Verma were an endearing pair for the franchise last season with a haul of 479 runs together for the first wicket, including five fifty-plus partnerships.

Their best showing was a mammoth 162-run stand in just 14.3 overs against Royal Challengers Bangalore enroute a 60-run drubbing of the latter.

Whose will it be? The five skippers with the WPL Trophy. PTI

South African quick Marizanne Kapp, who missed the recent Test against Australia due to illness, will be fresh to take charge as the side's strike bowler. Shikha Pandey and in-form Poonam Yadav will hope to support her ably, while Titas Sadhu – after her international promise – will finally hope to earn her maiden cap.

In the Mumbai fold, West Indian allrounder Hayley Matthews and England's Nat Sciver-Brunt hold the key to the side's success.

Rough patch

The team will closely watch Harmanpreet's run with the bat. The Indian skipper has hit a rough patch and did not reach a double-digit score in her last seven international appearances.

The Mumbai outfit is spoilt for choice in the bowling department. Memories of Issy Wong wreaking havoc against the Capitals sending back Shafali, Alice Capsey and Jemimah Rodrigues will be fresh for the side.

Saika Ishaque, who had an outing to forget against Australia in the ODI leg of the multi-format series early this year, will look to make amends. She will fancy her chances against Shafali whom she troubled last time.

The M Chinnaswamy Stadium favours teams batting second. In 206 T20 games (IPL and international fixtures), 110 were won by the team batting second. Incidentally, in the three instances of these two teams clashing, the team batting second has come out triumphant.

While the short boundaries here will tempt batters to clear the stands, the bowling unit that can minimise damage might clinch the fixture for its side.

Match begins at 8 p.m.

INBRIEF

Tearful tributes for Kenyan marathon prodigy Kiptum

Hundreds of mourners on Thursday accompanied the casket of marathon world record holder Kelvin Kiptum, who was killed in a road accident, on its way to his home village, where the young star who dreamed of breaking the race's storied two-hour barrier was laid to rest. Singing hymns and holding hands, mourners walked alongside the convoy carrying Kiptum's flower-lined casket as it departed for Chepsamo.

India wins two para golds in Asian Track Cycling

India won two gold, a silver and a bronze medal in the para category on day two of the Asian Track Cycling Championships in New Delhi on Thursday.

Indian medallists: Gold: Arshad Shaikh (men's C2 15km Scratch); Jyoti Gaderiya (women's C2 15km Scratch). **Silver:** Jalaluddin Ansari (men's C2 15km Scratch). **Bronze:** Pavan Kumar Kommoji (men's C3 class 15km Scratch).

Yuki and Haase combine loses early in Doha

Yuki Bhambri and Robin Haase were beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Andreas Mies of Germany and John-Patrick Smith of Australia 6-4, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of the $1,493,465 ATP tennis tournament in Doha on Wednesday. The Indo-Dutch team collected $7,620 for the early exit.

The results: $25,000 ITF men, Hammamet, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Peter Heller (Ger) & Dominik Kellovsky (Cze) bt Charles Dossetter (GBr) & Tushar Sharma 6-1, 6-1; Niccolo Catini & Gabriele Noce (Ita) bt Sathi Reddy Chirala & Jay Clarke (GBr) 6-4, 6-4.
$15,000 ITF, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Men: Doubles (quarterfinals): Siwanat Auytayakul & Thanapet Chanta (Tha) bt Jang Yunseok (Kor) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-7(4), [10-7].
Women: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Zheng Wushuang (Chn) bt Zeel Desai 7-5, 6-0. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Ya-Hsin Lee & Fang An Lin (Tpe) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi & Jennifer Luikham 6-3, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Doubles (quarterfinals): Mana Ayukawa (Jpn) & Briana Szabo (Rou) bt Flavie Brugnone (Fra) & Tanisha Kashyap 6-3, 1-6, [10-6].

Delhi holds Karnataka; Maharashtra beats Mizoram

Delhi held defending champion Karnataka to a 1-1 draw in the opening round of Group B league of the 77th National football championship, for the Santosh Trophy, at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday.
Karnataka took the lead when Appu Arogya Swamy struck in the 23rd minute. But an own goal from defender Prabin Tigga in the 26th minute cancelled Karnataka's advantage. In another match, substitute Akash Babu found the equaliser in injury-time (90+5 minute) to help Railways hold former champion Manipur to a 1-1 draw. Manipur had taken the lead in the 56th minute off Sanathoi Meetei. Later, Maharashtra beat Mizoram 3-1 in the final group B match of the day to pick up full points.

The results (Group B): Karnataka 1 (Appu Arogya Swamy 23) drew with Delhi 1 (Prabin Tigga 26-og); Manipur 1 (Sanathoi Meetei 56) drew with Railways 1 (Akash Babu 90+5); Maharashtra 3 (Advait 26, Lalhmunmawia 77-og, Dipak Patil 90+6) bt Mizoram 1 (Malsawmzuala 82).

Kodava Samaja S&RC and Canara Bank play out a draw

Kodava Samaja S&RC and Canara Bank played out a 3-3 draw in the 24th Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa memorial hockey tournament in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The results: Customs & GST 2 (Vishal 10, 31) bt SAI 0; MEG Boys 3 (Nitesh Sharma 4, Samir 16, Sahil Kumar 45) bt Rail Wheel Factory 0; Kodava Samaja S&RC 3 (V.S. Vinaya 37, Bhavin Kushalappa 57, I.R. Nachappa 59) drew with Canara Bank 3 (K.P. Dinesh 17, Pradhan Somanna 56, K.P. Somaiah 58).

LIVE TELECAST

India vs England: 4th Test, day 1, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Quarterfinals, Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
New Zealand vs Australia: 2nd T20I, Prime Video, 11.40 a.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 & 8.30 p.m.
WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday).
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday).
La Liga: Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Vidarbha has the batting line-up to take the fight to Karnataka

Karun will strive to get a big score and prove a point to his former Statemates; Vyshak's exploits as an all-rounder add heft to Mayank's side; teenager Hardik well equipped to thrive in his first high-pressure knockout game

Influential: Primarily a bowler, Vyshak's batting prowess has had an impact on Karnataka's fortunes. FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
NAGPUR

Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal insisted this his side is not concerned about any opponent, but proceedings on the last two days of its Ranji Trophy encounter against Chandigarh at Hubballi suggested otherwise.

By delaying the declaration, and going through the motions with ball in hand, Karnataka did not push hard for a win. As a result, a quarterfinal clash with Saurashtra – Karnataka's bane in recent knockout matches – was avoided.

Karnataka's turn at the fork in the road has instead led to a last-eight outing against Vidarbha here. Vidarbha will not take kindly to being viewed as the easier opponent, and is sure to take the field with a chip on the shoulder.

Vidarbha, the Elite Group 'A' topper, boasts of a strong batting line-up, with the likes of Karun Nair, Dhruv Shorey, Atharva Taide and Akshay Wadkar standing tall.

This is a particularly memorable moment for Karun, who will take on his former Statemates. Left out of the Karnataka squad, Karun made the move to Vidarbha at the start of this season. The 32-year-old would like nothing more than to get a big one here and prove that he is still a force to reckon with. Fine performances from V. Vyshak, Hardik Raj and Sharath Srinivas at Hubballi will please Karnataka. Vyshak, primarily a fast bowler, showed skill as a batter to score an unbeaten century. Vyshak's exploits as an all-rounder adds considerably to the team balance. "I must credit Vyshak for working hard on his batting. I've spoken to him about how he can add value as a batsman. In his younger days, he was a proper batsman. Modern-day cricket prefers people who add two or three skills. Vyshak has taken up the challenge, and he actually asks for the chance to go out and bat in pressure situations," Mayank said.

Hardik, 17, came of age with a polished 82 and a four-for in the first essay. The teenager is well equipped to thrive in his first high-pressure Ranji Trophy knockout game. Wicketkeeper-batter Srinivas will walk with confidence, having recorded his maiden First Class hundred. Has Karnataka picked the right opponent? Or has this lit a fire under Vidarbha?

RANJI QUARTERFINALS

Vidarbha vs. Karnataka (Nagpur)
Mumbai vs. Baroda (Mumbai)
Tamil Nadu vs. Saurashtra (Coimbatore)
Madhya Pradesh vs. Andhra (Indore)

JFC edges East Bengal

ISL-10

Sports Bureau
JAMSHEDPUR

Jamshedpur FC reclaimed the sixth spot in the Indian Super League table with a 2-1 victory over East Bengal at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Thursday.

Japanese star Rei Tachikawa scored the equaliser in the 80th minute before French playmaker Jeremy Manzorro found the target in injury time after Nandhakumar Sekar had put the Kolkata outfit in front in the 45th minute.

East Bengal had notched up its first win in six matches when it beat Hyderabad FC 1-0 away.

The result: JFC 2 (Tachikawa 80, Manzorro 90+7) bt East Bengal 1 (Nandhakumar 45).

Current team's mentality is different and we have grown as players: Vihari

Shayan Acharya
INDORE

When left was right: Vihari fractured his forearm, but still walked out to bat left-handed against MP last year. FILE PHOTO: LALITH KALIDAS

A floodgate of memories burst open as Hanuma Vihari walked into the Holkar Stadium on Thursday. Last year, during Andhra's Ranji Trophy quarterfinal clash against Madhya Pradesh at the same venue, Vihari fractured his forearm, but still walked out to bat left-handed. Though his efforts earned him praise, Andhra crashed out of the tournament after a five-wicket defeat.

As the two teams meet in yet another quarterfinal on Friday, Vihari is confident of Andhra's chances. "If we are in a similar situation like last year, we will seize the game this time around," Vihari told *The Hindu*.

"When we stepped on to the ground, memories of last year's quarterfinals came back. But the current team's mentality is a little different now and we have grown as players; our youngsters are more experienced," he said.

Vihari relinquished captaincy after the team's first group league match in January and has been playing as a specialist batter since. "I have moved on quite quickly because we have an able leader in Ricky Bhui. We get along well, so we play in the best interest of the team. In that aspect, both Ricky and I are on the same page, so it was easier to adjust," Vihari, who has amassed 453 runs so far, said.

Being a seasoned campaigner, he also believes that ahead of a marquee game, it's important to not think 'too much' about the game. "If you give the game too much importance, you end up taking too much pressure, which may not be the right thing to do. We have been playing good cricket, and we don't need to change too much. We just need to keep repeating what we have been doing at the group stage and if we can do that, we should be fine," he said.

Vihari has been out of the Indian team since July 2022. However, for now, his focus is to guide Andhra to a Ranji Trophy title. "If I win a Ranji Trophy for Andhra and score enough runs, the opportunities will come," he said.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kemp FC Juniors has it easy against Technico Football Foundation
Kemp FC Juniors thrashed Technico Football Foundation 4-0 in the KSFA Women's A-division League here on Thursday.
The results:
Kemp FC Juniors 4 (Ashwin Reddy (OG) 12, Yanna Pusala Lahari 23, Niya Anand Reddy 28, Tanya Koranne 66) bt Technico Football Foundation 0.

Kaviarasan stars in Bangalore Warriors FC's facile win
Kaviarasan scored a brace as Bangalore Warriors FC blanked Md. Sporting FC 5-0 in the BDFA B-division league here on Thursday.
The results:
Royals FC 3 (R. Praveen 40, Velu 60, S. Sennu 70) bt Al-Fateh FC 0.
Bangalore Warriors FC 5 (P. Harish 8, Kaviarasan 20, 36, Md. Ridha 46, Soyab Imtiaz Bagwan 56) bt Md. Sporting FC 0.
Vijayanagara FC 5 (Md. Naimuddin 24, 67, Jeet Done 27, 38, Jang Jangin Kuki 60) bt Veterans FC 1 (Steve Matthew 32).

Vivan's eight-for highlights DPS, E-City's easy victory
S. Vivaan scalped eight wickets (8/12) as DPS, E-City defeated Tattva School by eight wickets in the BTR Shield U-14 (Group I) third division tournament.
The scores:
Tattva School 25 in 16 overs (S. Vivaan 8/12) lost to DPS, E-City 26/2 in 4.5 overs.
KLE Society School [B-10] 89 in 22 overs (R. Chirag 4/22) lost to Venkat International PS 90/5 in 17.5 overs.
Gopalan IS, Hoodi 87 in 25.2 overs (Kahaan Halani 29, Aarav Panwar 5/25, Nandan Singh 3/20) lost to White Filed Global School 88/3 in 9.4 overs (Sidhant Kaul 43).
Soundarya Central School 135 in 47 overs (Vikas 5/27) lost to SLS International Gurukul [B-43] 87 in 23.2 overs (Chinmay 3/15).
Spurthy Global School 88 in 32 overs (Soyam 4/24) lost to AECS Magnolia Maaruti PS 89/2 in 22.2 overs (Sidharath 38 n.o.).

On a roll: Diaz scores Liverpool's third past Luton. REUTERS

Liverpool roars back in second-half demolition of Luton

PREMIER LEAGUE

Associated Press
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool mounted a second-half fightback to overwhelm Luton in a 4-1 win and move four points clear atop the Premier League on Wednesday.

Trailing 1-0 at halftime, Liverpool recovered at Anfield thanks to goals in the space of 125 seconds by Virgil van Dijk and Cody Gakpo that put the hosts in front by the 58th minute.

Luis Diaz added a third for the Reds while Harvey Elliott wrapped up the scoring in the 90th.

It was ultimately a strong response from an injury-hit Liverpool to title rival Manchester City's 1-0 win over Brentford on Tuesday.

That had left Liverpool, City and Arsenal separated by just two points in what is shaping up to being a three-team fight for the title.

Liverpool is now four points clear of City and five ahead of Arsenal, but has played an extra game.

The result:
Liverpool 4 (Van Dijk 56, Gakpo 58, Diaz 71, Elliott 90) bt Luton 1 (Ogbene 12).

Indian Racing League to feature two new tracks

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

The upcoming Indian Racing League (IRL) season will feature two new tracks – CoASTT High Performance in Coimbatore and Bren Raceway in Bengaluru – promising to inject fresh challenges and excitement to the season, Akhil Reddy, chairman, Racing Promotions Pvt. Ltd. (RPPL), said.

In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*, Akhil said the inclusion of these two tracks reflected the continuous evolution and expansion of the racing landscape, enhancing diversity and enriching the overall racing experience for participants and the fans. "The complete schedule of the season will be released on February 26," he said.

Akhil added the Hyderabad round of the Formula 4 Indian Championship was shifted to Chennai due to the State Elections during that period.

Regarding Formula 3 races, the top official of RPPL said currently the plan was to bring F3 to India by 2026.

Blitz outlast Thunderbolts in a five-set thriller

PVL

Netra. V
CHENNAI

Chennai Blitz prevailed over Kolkata Thunderbolts 3-2 in a five-set thriller in the Prime Volleyball League Season-3 at the SDAT multi-purpose indoor stadium here on Thursday.

Akhin GS set the tone for Blitz, but Thunderbolts neutralised it with their defence.

Ashwal Rai and Vinit Kumar's attacking spree saw the visitors race to an 11-8 advantage.

Raman Kumar took charge of scoring for the hosts before Vinit's spike took Thunderbolts to a 16-14 win in the first set.

In the second, with Vinayak Rokhade aiding the Ashwal-Vinit combo, things did not seem to favour Blitz as Thunderbolts went 12-9 ahead.

Leandro Jose's offence and defence kept the visitors at bay as the hosts won the set 21-20.

In the third set, Blitz appeared to have found an answer to the Vinit problem.

Standing tall: Benjamin tested Thunderbolts' defence. R. RAVINDRAN

As Joel Benjamin and Dhilip Kumar combined to pick winners, Blitz were not troubled.

With five consecutive points and a super point, Blitz remained in the driver's seat at 15-5.

Blitz's service faults and net miscalculations cost it several opportunities. Rahul K forced his way through the Blitz blockers, and the visitors came from behind to clinch it 19-17 and take it to the decider.

One-sided final set
Blitz made the final set a one-sided affair as the Dhilip-Joel partnership took charge to win 15-8 and secure its third victory in a row.

The result:
Chennai Blitz bt Kolkata Thunderbolts 3-2 (14-16, 21-20, 15-5, 17-19, 15-8).